CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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'Go get your own oil from Hormuz'

All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the US, we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT.

—Donald Trump, US President

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Tuesday told the countries that did not help in the US-Israeli strikes on Iran to either buy American oil or go to the Strait of Hormuz and "just TAKE it."

Trump specifically mentioned Britain and France as unhelpful in the month-long war in a post on Truth Social. The war has roiled global markets, driven up energy prices and seen Iran effectively close oil tanker traffic through the Strait.

"All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the US, we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT," Trump said in a Truth Social post. "You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the U.S.A. won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. "The hard part is done. Go get your own oil!" He also criticised France for not letting planes carrying military supplies to Israel fly over French territory.

IRAN SPARKS US 'BIG TECH' PANIC

'Expect destruction': IRGC says it will start bombing US tech giants in West Asia starting April 1

TEHRAN

The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has issued a stern warning to 18 US technology companies, singling out Microsoft, Apple, Google, Intel, and Boeing, among others, as "legitimate targets" in response to operations carried out by the US and Israel.

The IRGC said in a Tuesday statement that these companies should expect Iran's reprisal attacks starting at 20:00 Iran time on April 1, adding that their offices in the region will be "annihilated."

The list released by the IRGC included big tech names such as Apple, Google, Meta, and Microsoft, as well as major hardware suppliers like HP, Intel, IBM, and Cisco.

IRAN WAR DAY 33

The targets

Microsoft, Google, Apple, Intel, IBM, Tesla, Boeing, Dell Technologies, HP, Cisco, Oracle, Meta, JPMorgan Chase, and General Electric among others

Other major brands included Tesla, Nvidia, Oracle, JP Morgan, and Boeing.

The IRGC described those companies as espionage entities associated with the warmongering government of the United States, saying their artificial intelligence (AI) and internet communication technology (ICT) services have been the main elements in designing terror operations and tracing assassination targets by the US and Israel inside Iran.

It stated that the US government and its Israeli allies had ignored Iran's repeated calls to stop terror operations in the country and had carried out a new targeted terror attack earlier on Tuesday, killing a number of Iranian citizens.

"In response to this terrorist operation, henceforth, the main institutions involved in terrorist activities will be considered legitimate targets," the IRGC said.

"We advise employees of these institutions to immediately leave their workplaces to protect their lives. Residents within a one-kilometer radius of these terrorist companies across all countries in the region are also urged to evacuate and move to safe locations."

Dozens of senior Iranian political and military officials and their family members have been assassinated in the ongoing US-Israeli aggression against Iran that began in late February.

Iran has vowed to avenge the assassinations by targeting elements that have been influential in the attacks.

UK sends more troops to Mideast to defend Gulf allies

LONDON: The UK is set to deploy extra troops to the Middle East in an effort to bolster defences for UK allies facing Iranian attacks. On a trip to Gulf nations, defence secretary John Healey said additional air defence teams and systems have arrived in Bahrain and Kuwait, and outlined plans to deploy an air defence missile system in Saudi Arabia and extend UK Typhoon jets' action in Qatar – despite the prime minister's repeated insistence that the UK will not be dragged into the wider war. News of the bolstered defence capabilities comes just hours after Trump warned Sir Keir Starmer and other allies that the "US won't be there to help you any more, just like you weren't there for us", after they refused to join US strikes on Iran.

China, Pak proposes 5-point peace plan

LAHORE

China and Pakistan on Tuesday jointly unveiled a 5-point proposal aimed at restoring peace and stability in the Gulf and the wider West Asia region, calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a renewed push for diplomacy.

The proposal was put forward during talks in Beijing between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, as tensions continue to escalate across the region.

In a joint statement, China and Pakistan outlined a five-point framework centred on de-escalation, dialogue, and adherence to international law.

What are those 5 points

1. Immediate cessation of hostilities
2. Start of peace talks as soon as possible
3. Security of nonmilitary targets
4. Security of shipping lanes
5. Primacy of the United Nations Charter

The joint initiative comes amid growing global concern over the potential for wider conflict in the Gulf and West Asia, with disruptions to energy supplies and maritime trade routes already raising economic and security alarms.

FIFA's Infantino: Iran will play in World Cup 2026

ANTALYA

In a massive development surrounding Iran's participation at the forthcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 in North America, Gianni Infantino, the apex body's president, confirmed the war-ridden country's involvement amid raging conflict with the tournament's co-hosts, the US and Israel, in West Asia. Speaking during the half-time of Iran's friendly against Costa Rica in Turkey on Tuesday, he said there will be no change in Iran's scheduled Group G games, with all its matches set to take place 'where they are supposed to be, according to the draw.' "Iran will be at the World Cup," Infantino said in a chat with the media. "That's why we're here. We're delighted because they're a very, very strong team, I'm very happy." "I've seen the team, I've spoken to the players and the coach, so everything is fine," added Infantino, The US, Canada and Mexico will host the 48-team tournament starting June 11. Iran is scheduled to play their first Group G game against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15 before facing Belgium in Los Angeles on June 21 and Egypt in Seattle on June 27.

Horror in West Bank as Israel approves hanging Palestinian prisoners

JERUSALEM

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets across the occupied Palestinian territories on Tuesday after Israel's parliament passed a law making death penalty by hanging the default punishment for Palestinian prisoners charged with killing Israelis. The law doesn't prescribe similar punishment to Israeli settlers convicted of killing Palestinians.

Palestinians, young and old, held sit-ins and marches in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the territory where the new law is most sweeping.

West Bank military courts, which try only Palestinians has been accused of bias towards the Israeli military, which conducts frequent raids and detains Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The bill, which makes death penalty the default punishment for Palestinians charged with killing or plotting an attack against Israelis, passed its final vote in the Israeli parliament late Monday, to cheers and applause. Israel's far right minister of national security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, who spearheaded the push for the legislation, described the law as long overdue and a sign of strength and national pride. The law is set to take effect in 30 days but its implementation could be delayed by pending court proceedings at Israel's highest tribunal.

The law extends also to Israeli courts, giving them the option of imposing the death penalty on Israeli citizens convicted of nationalistic murder — language that legal experts say effectively confines those who can be sentenced to death to Palestinian citizens of Israel and excludes Jewish citizens.

IndiGo appoints William Walsh as new CEO

NEW DELHI

IndiGo, India's largest airline by fleet size, on Tuesday announced the appointment of former British Airways chief William Walsh as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Walsh, an airline industry veteran, is currently the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Announcing the appointment of Walsh as the CEO, subject to regulatory approvals, IndiGo, in a release, stated his tenure at IATA comes to a close on July 31 and is expected to join no later than August 3.

The announcement comes less than three weeks after the sudden exit of IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers and the airline is emerging from a turbulent period of flight disruptions that shaved billions off its market value.

Bihar temple stampede kills 9 women devotees

NALANDA

Nine women have been killed and several devotees sustained injuries in a stampede that took place during prayers at the Sheetla Mata Temple in Bihar's Nalanda district on Tuesday.

The state government has announced an ex gratia of ₹6 lakh to the families of the victims. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 to those injured from the PM Relief Fund.

The district administration has now closed the temple to tackle the situation. Locals alleged that there were no proper security arrangements at the temple to control the crowd. Devotees from Nalanda and neighbouring districts gather at the temple in Maghada village to offer prayers every Tuesday. The toll is likely to go up, they said.

The Bihar Chief Secretary has been instructed to initate a probe into the incident and submit a report to the government. Expressing condolences, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary assured that all possible assistance would be provided to the victims.

Tennis icon Leander Paes joins BJP

Sportspersons' brush with politics in India

- **Mohammad Azharuddin** (Cricketer) - Congress
- **Navjot Singh Sidhu** (Cricketer) - BJP, Congress and Aawaz-e-Punjab
- **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** (Olympic medalist shooter) - BJP
- **Saina Nehwal** (badminton ace) - BJP
- **Gautam Gambhir** (Cricketer) - BJP
- **Kirti Azad** (Cricketer) - BJP, Congress, Trinamool Congress
- **Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia** (wrestlers) - Congress
- **Vijender Singh** (Olympic medalist boxer) - Congress, BJP
- **Bhaichung Bhutia** (former Indian football captain) - TMC, CPI(M), Hamaro Sikkim
- **Harbhajan Singh** (Cricketer) - Aam Aadmi Party
- **Chetan Chauhan** (Cricketer) - BJP
- **Yogeshwar Dutt** (Olympic medalist wrestler) - BJP
- **Dilip Tirkey** (former Indian hockey captain) - Biju Janata Dal
- **Kalyan Chaubey** (former Indian footballer) - BJP
- **Jyotirmoyee Sikdar** (ace athlete) - CPM, TMC

KOLKATA

Indian tennis legend Leander Paes on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2026 West Bengal assembly elections, marking a significant political shift from his earlier association with the Trinamool Congress.

He joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju.

The tennis star had recently met BJP chief Nitin Nabin in Kolkata, setting off speculation about him joining the party.

"Leander Paes' entry into the BJP family today is historic. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has championed sports and athletes over the past 12 years," said Kiren Rijiju.

Paes had joined the Trinamool Congress in 2021 and campaigned for the party during the Goa elections in 2022. He did not contest the elections.

This shift reflects both a personal repositioning and a potentially calculated electoral strategy, as Paes hails from Kolkata and carries strong name recognition.

West Bengal will go to polls in two-phases on April 23 and 29.

CRACKING THE SOUTH

BJP's Viksit Keralam manifesto hits battle field

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The BJP-led NDA on Tuesday released its manifesto for Keralam, pledging to protect Sabarimala and Guruvayur temples by reorganising the Devaswom Board and ending corruption at places of worship.

The party promises to hand over temple management to devotees, releasing them from Devaswom Board control, on the lines of Christian and Muslim places of worship. The manifesto, released by BJP national president Nitin Nabin at an NDA event here, also promises a CBI investigation into the Sabarimala gold theft case.

Economic promises include 20,000 litres of free drinking water for 10 months to each household, two free LPG cylinders during Onam and Christmas for poor households, and 2,500 rupees per month health aid for poor women through a health card scheme.

Besides that, a welfare pension of Rs 3,000 per month will be provided to women heads of poor households, widows and senior citizens above the age of 70 years, it said.

The manifesto, released by BJP national president Nitin Nabin at an NDA event here, also promised a high speed railway network connecting the state capital with Kannur, 20,000 litres of free water for every household and "water for Tamil Nadu and safety for Kerala" with regard to the Mullaperiyar dam.

"We will protect Sabarimala, Guruvayoor and all other places of worship by revamping Devaswom Boards to increase participation of devotees in temple management," it further said. The NDA manifesto said that it will also end corruption through a time-bound CBI enquiry into the Sabarimala gold theft.

It also promised to launch a "Sabarimala Infrastructure Development Mission" to undertake large-scale devotee-centric infrastructure development at the hill-top shrine.

The BJP also promises an AIIMS facility for Kerala, completion of all phases of Kochi Metro, introduction of Metro between Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode, and development of Vizhinjam Port. For senior citizens, the party pledges to increase pension to 3,000 rupees for people over 70 years of age, compared to the current scheme for those over 60.

QUICK READ

Nigerian national arrested for peddling drugs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Yelahanka Newtown police have arrested a foreigner who had come to India on a business visa and was selling narcotics in Bengaluru. The arrested suspect, Samuel Ikkena from Nigeria, was arrested and 2 kg of MDM crystal, worth about Rs 2 crore in the international market, was seized from him, police said. Samuel, who came to India in 2012, initially traded clothes in Delhi and Mumbai. Police said he came to Bengaluru last year and started selling drugs under the guise of selling clothes on Bannerghatta Road. A case has been registered against him at the Yelahanka Newtown police station under the NDPS Act.

Case against online post on Home Minister

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Cyber crime police have registered a suo motu case against an X account holder for posting derogatory comments on Home Minister G Parameshwara after a Siddhartha College professor allegedly proposed to a student in the classroom. While monitoring social media platforms on March 27, police found the post from the handle sabhyastha. A video clip from a regional news channel about the professor allegedly proposing to the student was uploaded with a caption referring to the Home Minister and a religion. Police said the content, deemed derogatory, appeared to have been deliberately shared with the intention to incite hatred and hurt the religious sentiments of sections of society.

Youth consumes alcohol while standing from car sunroof

BENGALURU
A youth was seen consuming alcohol while standing through a car's sunroof on the Bengaluru-Nelamangala national highway. The incident, captured on video and shared on social media, shows the the youth standing and consuming alcohol from what looks like a water bottle. The car (KA01MM7215) was stopped at a traffic point near the 8th Mile IKEA showroom. A woman, who recorded the video from a vehicle which was behind the SUV, can be heard saying people are not afraid of the police. The video has sparked outrage, and netizens are demanding the police to take action against the individuals involved.

NHAI toll up on major corridors from April 1

The hike ranges from Rs 5 to Rs 15; routes include Bengaluru-Chennai and Bengaluru-Mysuru expressways; hike affects various vehicle types, with cars now costing approximately Rs 150 for a single trip on the Bengaluru-Chennai route

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has marginally increased toll on major corridors effective April 1, as per a notification.

The revised rates apply to Bengaluru-Chennai expressway (Hoskote–KGF stretch within Karnataka), Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) between Dabaspet and Hoskote, Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway, Kanakapura Road, Ballari Road leading to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and other NHs.At Sadahalli toll gate on Kempegowda International Airport Road (Ballari Road), the single-trip fee for cars remains unchanged at Rs 120, but the return journey fee has been increased from Rs 180 to Rs 185. The monthly pass for 50 trips now costs Rs 4,070.

For Light Commercial Vehicles (LCV/LGV) and mini-buses, toll has gone up by Rs 5, with single-trip charges rising from Rs 185 to Rs 190 and return fares from Rs 275 to Rs 280. Monthly passes are priced at Rs 6,255. Truck and bus operators will see a hike of Rs 5 to Rs 15. Single-trip charges have been revised to Rs 375, while return journeys will now cost Rs 565. The monthly pass vstands at Rs 12,575.

The increase is likely to have a cascading impact on bus fares, particularly for services operated by BMTC, which runs extensive routes to the airport and surrounding towns such as Devanahalli and Chikkaballapur. Air passengers may end up paying for Vayu Vajra services. On STRR corridor, toll for cars has been increased by Rs 5. At the Nelluru-Devanahalli plaza, single-trip charges stand at Rs 75, with return

journeys costing Rs 125 and monthly passes at Rs 2,805. At Hulikunte, cars will pay Rs 110 for a single trip and Rs 160 for return journeys, with monthly passes priced at Rs 3,595.

NHAI has revised toll on the 72km operational stretch of Bengaluru-Chennai expressway between Hoskote and KGF (Bethamangala). Across four toll plazas, Hedaginabele, Agrahara, Krishnapura and Sundarapalya, car users will pay around Rs 150 for a single trip and up to Rs 225 for return journeys, with monthly passes ranging between Rs 4,860 and Rs 4,985 depending on direction. Notably, toll rates on this stretch have seen fluctuations. After initially charging expressway-level tolls when the stretch opened last year, NHAI reduced rates in Feb 2026, citing incomplete sections. With only 72km of the 261km corridor operational, the authority is now levying tolls on a par with NH rates rather than full expressway pricing. For Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway, the toll for cars has been increased by Rs 5. At Kaniminike, single-journey toll has been revised from Rs 175 to Rs 180, while return journey fee has gone up from Rs 260 to Rs 265. At Ganaguru toll plaza, single-journey fee has increased from Rs 170 to Rs 175, and return journey one from Rs 255 to Rs 260. As per the revised rates, a one-way trip between Bengaluru and Mysuru will cost Rs 355.

Corridors affected by toll hike

- Bengaluru-Chennai expressway (Hoskote–KGF stretch within Karnataka)
- Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) between Dabaspet and Hoskote
- Bengaluru–Mysuru access-controlled highway
- Kanakapura Road, Ballari Road leading to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), and other NHs

Cost of monthly passes

- Cars - ₹4,070
- Light commercial Vehicles & mini buses: ₹6,255
- Trucks & buses: ₹12,575

Class 1 age rule row continues despite govt's 60-day relaxation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

After the government announced a 60-day relaxation for admissions to kindergarten and class 1, some parents are now seeking further relaxation.

They want the government to make five and a half years the cut-off for admission to class 1, as was done last year. In July 2022, the government had issued an order fixing the age of admission at six years. However, this was not implemented following protests from parents.

This year too, parents approached the school education department against the rule, forcing the government to announce a two-month waiver. Last Thursday, the govt relaxed the age criteria for class 1 by 60 days for the academic year 2026-27. Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa said the relaxation will be applicable to LKG and UKG admissions too. Thus, this year, a child who is 5 years and 10 months old as of June 1 is eligible for admission.

The new rule applies to all govt, aided, and private schools across curricula: state, CBSE, ICSE, and international.However, another group of parents is unhappy. It is unfair on our children as they have made a relaxation to benefit only a few. So our children are being forced to repeat kindergarten. This will cause emotional stress on them, including loss of confidence.

Additionally, it is a financial burden on us, said a parent. Last year, the government said it would never relax the rule again. But it has announced a 60-day relaxation this time. This helps only half the parents. said BV Yogananda, President of Karnataka Private School and Colleges Parents' Association. Moreover, the government should immediately release the new regulation for kindergarten admissions so that this does not repeat, he added.

Yielding to the demand of private schools, the government has amended its rules, reducing the mandatory land lease requirement from 30 years to 15 for running educational institutions. In a gazetted notification, the government stated that every private body desiring to establish an educational institution imparting pre-primary, primary, secondary, and higher secondary education should own or have on lease land registered for a minimum period of 15 years. The institutions should submit RTC / e-khata / khata document as proof of land ownership. The government has listened to our request to change the lease period. Meanwhile, there are some other issues that need clarity. We will be raising them with the govt soon, said D Shashi Kumar, Secretary of the Association of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka.

Charges for change in governing council or location

The government has also decided to charge schools for change in the governing council or location. For change in location, the fees are: Rs 50,000 for primary school, ₹75,000 for secondary school, and ₹1 lakh for higher secondary school. The fee for change in governing council is ₹1 lakh, ₹1.5 lakh, and ₹2 lakh, respectively.

AI may be used to park cars and trace violators in B'luru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An AI-enabled paid parking system is proposed to be rolled out in key areas of the city, with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) preparing to implement the model in Jayanagar, HSR Layout, Cubbon Park and Koramangala.

The system, designed to regulate unorganised roadside parking and ease congestion, will be fully digital and app-based. Motorists will be required to park only in designated slots identified through a mobile application, with real-time monitoring enabled through artificial intelligence. Vehicles parked outside authorised zones will be flagged automatically, triggering alerts to towing personnel and inviting penalties, said a senior GBA official.

According to GBA officials, a Chennai-based private firm will handle operations, including mapping parking spaces, integrating payment systems and managing enforcement. This is a technology-driven intervention aimed at bringing discipline to on-street parking. AI will help us monitor violations in real time and ensure compliance without manual intervention, a senior GBA official said.The authority has plans to impose parking fees of Rs 30 per hour for two-wheelers and Rs 50 per hour for cars, with payments to be made through QR codes and the app.

Cities across the world have adopted structured paid parking to manage limited road space efficiently. Bengaluru, as a leading IT city, must move in that direction, another GBA official noted. However, the proposal has raised concerns among traffic police and local stakeholders. Police officials have objected to the inclusion of residential streets, cautioning that charging fees in such areas, many of which are already notified as parking zones, could lead to public resistance. A calibrated approach is needed, especially in residential neighbourhoods, a senior traffic official said. The proposal comes as GBA is making preparations for civic elections.

Ensure Kannada is respected: VTU tells colleges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) issued a directive that all employees must ensure that Kannada, administrative language of the state, is not disrespected in colleges under its jurisdiction.

As per the March 24 circular, all Principals and heads of colleges must take personal responsibility to ensure respect for the language and harmony are maintained in institutions. If any violation is found, disciplinary action will be taken against staff. No teaching or non-teaching staff should use derogatory or inappropriate words about Kannada while communicating with students or others, the circular said. The move comes after Kannada Development Authority issued a letter to the university to ensure linguistic harmony. VTU vice-chancellor Prof S Vidyashankar said, VTU has 220 affiliated colleges with 3 lakh students, including students from different states and countries. We are ensuring that Kannada is not disrespected. Since some unpleasant incidents have occurred, we have issued precautionary guidelines to prevent such situations.

5 SWR trains get modern coaches for more comfortable journey

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Gone are the days of the old iconic beige and brown-coloured coaches linked to some of the city's short-distance trains. South Western Railway (SWR) has converted five short-distance trains to modern Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) rakes, which already hit the tracks this week.

Three Mysuru-bound trains, one to Dharwad and intercity express to Talguppa, the nearest railway station to Jog Falls, have got new coaches for a more comfortable journey.LHB coaches are modern, stainless steel passenger coaches used by Indian Railways.

The air-conditioned version of these coaches was initially

imported from Germany for Shatabdi Express trains, following which they were manufactured in India. Designed for speeds up to 160–180 kmph, enhanced safety and passenger comfort, these coaches have improved accessories like charging points, tray tables and modular cabin switches.

The air-conditioned LHB coaches have modular window blinds along with sliding window shutters instead of the old clip-based window shutters. However, modernisation has reduced the total number of coaches from 21 to 19. The current arrangement features 11 general coaches, 5 reserved second-sitting coaches and an A/C chair car.

Passengers have, however, expressed concerns about the design of second-sitting coaches, which feature chairs with limited incline.

Union minister of State for Railways V Somanna said a new Memu train between Bengaluru and Arsikere via Tumakuru has been approved. "This train will benefit students, daily-wage workers, employees, farmers and traders. The service will improve connectivity, support the local economy and daily commuters, he said.

Woman held for trying to smuggle ganja, beedi to jail

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

While efforts are being made to curb illegal activities in the prison, illegal activities are continuing unabated. Despite the strict measures taken by the jail warders, efforts are continuing to supply drugs, ganja, mobile phones, etc.

Meanwhile, a woman who had come to Parappana Agrahara Jail with three 5G SIMs, bidis and ganja items to give to her husband Farhan Khan, who is an undertrial prisoner, was caught and sent to the same jail. Ritika Ray (27) is the arrested woman.

Ritika, who hails from Assam, was married for the second time to Farhan Khan from Hennur. Khan was jailed a few months ago for his involvement in an extortion case.

Ritika had come to see her husband Farhan on March 26 after getting an interview pass. Ritika's behavior at the entrance of the jail was suspicious. Therefore, the female staff took Ritika into custody and searched her. During this time, Ritika was found to be hiding three SIM cards, 27 grams of methamphetamine drug powder, bidi and tobacco products in her private parts. Therefore, Ritika was immediately handed over to the jail staff.

Rithika was arrested by the Parappana Agrahara police station after registering a case under the charges of NDPS and violation of prison rules.

Second tariff hike in weeks set to hit commercial, industrial users

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Commercial and industrial consumers in Karnataka are staring at a double whammy on their monthly electricity bills, with Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) likely to revise the current tariff anywhere between 35 and 45 paise per unit.

The fresh hike, according to sources in the energy sector, will kick in from April even as consumers continue to bear the burden of a recent revision by KERC, ranging from 10 to 95 paise for various categories, in the first week of March to help ESCOMs overcome revenue shortfall.

Even though the likely revision is unlikely to pinch domestic consumers due to government's Gruha Jyothi scheme, the hike is set to burn a hole in the pockets for those not covered by it. The latest hike is expected to be rolled out after assembly bypolls scheduled for April 9. KERC, after holding public consultations over the past few weeks, is likely to allow revision of 35-45 paise per unit, as per sources.

GOVT UPS VIP QUOTA

IPL ticket row resolved, MLAs to get 3 tickets

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said Legislators would be allotted three complimentary tickets each for Indian Premier League (IPL) matches and two for international cricket fixtures in the city, with an option to buy two additional tickets for international games.

Speaking to reporters at his Sadashivanagar residence, Shivakumar said the decision followed his meetings with officials of Karnataka State

Cricket Association, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), and DNA Networks to thrash out allocation of tickets for elected representatives.

He clarified that since tickets for the season-opening IPL match on Saturday between RCB and Sunrisers Hyderabad had already been sold, only two tickets could be provided to legislators. The matter is now closed. Those not interested in obtaining tickets can inform us in writing, there's no compulsion, the DCM added.

Responding to demands from some legislators for a higher quota, Shivakumar said it was not feasible. He further said in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata, nearly 50-60 percent of tickets are distributed among government officials and related entities. Compared to them, our intervention is minimal, he noted.

Earlier, Congress Legislator Vijayanand Kashappanavar had demanded four tickets for each MLA to watch IPL matches in Bengaluru. His statement that Legislators could not be queuing up like normal people, triggered a backlash on social media, with fans questioning VIP culture.

On demands for a dedicated gallery for legislators and ministers for IPL matches, Shivakumar ruled out any interference by the govt on the same.

QUICK READ

Two Killed in Head-On Bike Collision

VIJAYAPURA

Two motorcycle riders were killed on the spot in a tragic road accident near Masabinal in Basavan Bagewadi taluk of Vijayapura district. According to police sources, the accident occurred when two bikes collided head-on, resulting in the instant death of both riders. The deceased have been identified as Santosh Lalu Chavan (32), a resident of Ingaleshwar Tanda, and Bheemangouda Patil (45) from Deginal village. Another person sustained serious injuries in the accident and was shifted to the Government Hospital in Basavan Bagewadi for treatment.Managuli police rushed to the spot, conducted an inspection, and registered a case. Further investigation is underway.

Lightning Strike Claims Young Farmer's Life

BIDAR

Heavy early morning rain hit parts of Bidar district on Tuesday, leading to the death of a 25-year-old farmer in a lightning strike in Aurad taluk. The victim, Rahul Bhaskar from Badalgav village, was working in his field when sudden rain and thunder intensified, and lightning struck him, killing him on the spot. Officials visited the site, and the incident highlights the risks farmers face during sudden weather changes.

Kannada Sena Demands Strict Action against Rising Crime

RAICHUR

Raising concern over increasing crime, Kannada Sena Karnataka has urged police to take strict action across Raichur district. The group pointed to rising theft, gambling, robbery, and drug peddling incidents.

A delegation from the Raichur unit submitted a memorandum to the Superintendent of Police, highlighting illegal activities in several taluks and rural areas. They said gambling, theft, and sale of narcotics like ganja are happening openly, affecting public peace.

The organisation warned such activities are pushing youth towards addiction and creating fear among residents. Women and the general public feel unsafe due to the growing presence of drug addicts on streets.

Kannada Sena demanded increased night patrolling and strict vigilance.

Matrix Agro Closure Distresses Workers; Appeal Made to Minister

Workers Unpaid for Months, Minister Orders Action on Labour Law Violations

KALABURAGI

In a shocking development, Matrix Agro Private Limited, operating under Polakpalli Gram Panchayat limits in Chincholi taluk, has been abruptly shut down, allegedly violating labour laws and leaving around 120 worker families in severe distress.

A delegation of workers, led by Maruti Ganjageri, met Labour Minister Santosh Lad at Vikas Soudha and submitted a memorandum seeking justice for the affected workers. According to the workers, the company, which had been functioning for nearly 13–14 years, was closed overnight on February 5 without any prior notice. A closure notice was reportedly pasted at midnight, leaving employees stranded and uncertain about their future.

Salaries Withheld, Families Struggling

Workers alleged that they had not been paid salaries for the past four to five months, pushing their families into financial hardship. Many are now unable to pay school and college fees for their children and are struggling to meet basic needs.

Serious Violations Alleged

The workers have also raised serious allegations against the company management, claiming that since its inception, the company failed to provide statutory benefits such as Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and bonuses.

Minister Assures Action

After hearing the grievances, Labour Minister Santosh Lad immediately contacted the Labour Commissioner over the phone and sought details of the case. He directed officials to take strict action against the company for violating labour laws and instructed them to register a case without delay. Several leaders, including Hanumanth Gouri, Anawar Daulappa Chimmayidalai and Siddappa Keshwar, were present during the meeting.The incident has raised serious concerns over labour rights enforcement and the accountability of private companies operating with government support.

Foul Drain Turns Life Miserable in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

Residents in several Vijayapura areas face severe hardship as a clogged drain spreads stench, disease risk, and civic neglect.

Residents of several localities in Vijayapura are struggling to cope with unbearable living conditions as a one-kilometre-long rajakaluve has turned into a filthy stretch of garbage and sewage. The drain, filled with stagnant water, rotting waste and sludge, emits a strong foul smell that has made daily life extremely difficult.

The worst-hit areas include Shastrinagar, Vidyanagar, Rahimnagar, Hoogar Plots, Koujalagi Layout and regions behind Ibrahim Roza. With no slab covering the open drain, it has effectively become a dumping ground. Residents say even relatives and guests hesitate to visit due to the unbearable stench.

The impact is visible across these neighbourhoods. Many tenants have vacated their homes, while some property owners are considering selling their houses at lower prices. Families say they are unable to live comfortably, especially during mornings and evenings when the smell and insects worsen.

Health concerns are also rising. The stagnant polluted water has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies, increasing the risk of diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya. Residents complain that constant exposure to the unhygienic environment is affecting their well-being.

Despite repeated complaints, no permanent solution has been implemented. Local ward member Aarati Shahapur has raised the issue several times in council meetings, demanding that the drain be covered, but no action has been taken. Residents have blamed the Vijayapura City Corporation and its Commissioner Mekkalaki for negligence.

Locals also expressed anger over the lack of follow-up after a visit by MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who had earlier assured quick action.

Frustrated by inaction, residents are now considering pooling money to cover the drain themselves, while others are planning to leave the area. Citizens have urged higher authorities to intervene immediately to prevent a serious public health crisis.

Rusted barrage gates in Yadgiri are causing heavy water loss, affecting farmers and raising serious concerns

Rusted Barrage Gates Cause Water Loss, Farmers Protest

YADGIR

In a major case of neglect, the Hirenoor–Kandalli bridge-cum-barrage across the Bhima River near Saidapur in Yadgir taluk has fallen into disrepair, leading to heavy water leakage and distress among farmers. The barrage gates, once vital for irrigation, have rusted and become almost non-functional.

Farmers allege that due to the damaged gates, large amounts of water are continuously leaking downstream, even flowing into neighbouring Telangana. This has resulted in a huge loss of valuable water resources, especially during a year of low rainfall.

Built at a cost of crores during the tenure of former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, the barrage now reflects poor maintenance. Farmers say the gates cannot be operated properly, particularly during the monsoon. During floods, the gates fail to lift fully, causing uncontrolled water flow that damages crops and erodes soil.

The issue has also affected drinking water supply for people and livestock. With limited rainfall this year, the barrage plays a key role in storing water, but its poor condition is threatening both irrigation and daily needs.

Farmers have demanded immediate replacement of the old gates with modern hydraulic systems to prevent further loss. Farmer leader Maralingappa and activist Umesh K. Mudnal highlighted the urgent need for repairs.

Officials from the Minor Irrigation Department said a proposal has been submitted, but work is delayed due to pending funds. Growing frustration among farmers signals possible protests if immediate action is not taken.

BRUTAL MURDER OVER TRIVIAL DISPUTE

YADGIR

A minor dispute escalated into a gruesome murder at Mavinamatti village in Surapura taluk of Yadgir district, leaving one person dead and another seriously injured.

The deceased has been identified as Paramanna Gindi (30). According to reports, a quarrel broke out between two groups over a trivial issue, which quickly turned violent. During the clash, miscreants allegedly attacked Paramanna by hurling a stone at his head, causing fatal injuries. He died on the spot.

Another individual sustained serious injuries in the incident and has been admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment.Circle Police Inspector (CPI) Ravikumar visited the scene and conducted an inspection. The case has been registered at Kembhavi Police Station, and further investigation is underway.Police are working to identify and apprehend those involved in the incident.

Bike Rider Burnt Alive in Bus–Bike Head-on Collision

VIJAYAPURA

A tragic road accident occurred near Kannolli Toll Gate in Sindagi taluk of Vijayapura district on Tuesday, where a bike rider was burnt alive following a head-on collision with a bus.

According to reports, a transport corporation bus bearing registration number KA28 F 2095 collided head-on with a motorcycle (KA28 HK 2551). Due to the impact, the bike caught fire, and the rider was charred to death on the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Abhishek Sayabagouda Nagaral (19), a resident of Mulasavalagi village in Devara Hipparagi town of Vijayapura district.The bus also caught fire following the collision. However, all passengers on board managed to escape in time, avoiding any casualties.

On receiving information, the Sindagi Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire. Sindagi police also visited the scene, conducted an inspection, and have registered a case. Further investigation is underway.The incident falls under the jurisdiction of Sindagi Police Station.

Self-Enumeration for Digital Census Begins From April 1

VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand K has announced that citizens can take part in the self-enumeration process for the upcoming Census from April 1 to April 15. He said the Census is an important scientific exercise that records not only the population but also socio-economic conditions and cultural diversity across the country.

This will be India's 16th Census and the first to be conducted in a digital format. The process will be carried out in two phases starting April, making participation easier and more efficient for citizens.

To complete self-enumeration, people can log in to the official portal using their mobile number and OTP. After logging in, they must select their location, mark their house on the digital map, and fill in household details carefully. Once submitted, a Self-Enumeration Reference ID will be generated, which should be saved and shared with the enumerator during verification.

Officials said the portal can be accessed through mobile phones, desktops, and laptops. Citizens must provide correct details such as state, district, taluk, and village or city. Guidelines and FAQs are also available on the portal for assistance.Enumerators will visit households from April 16 to May 15 to verify the information. If self-enumeration is not completed, they will collect details directly.

Childless Couples Advised to Adopt Through Special Adoption Centre

VIJAYAPURA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ananda K. has advised childless couples and single parents to adopt children through authorized Special Adoption Centres to ensure a safe and legal process.

He was speaking after inaugurating a new Government Adoption Centre at the Government Boys' Home in Takke area of Vijayapura city.The Deputy Commissioner said that every orphaned child in the 0–6 age group deserves to grow up in a family environment and become a responsible citizen. Eligible parents can adopt children through the Special Adoption Centre as per legal provisions.He further explained that adoption is governed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Adoption Guidelines, 2017, which provide a legal framework for adopting orphaned and surrendered children.Dr. Ananda K. also emphasized that children in need of care and protection can be admitted to government adoption institutions. He warned that taking custody of a child directly from hospitals, public places, or individuals without following legal procedures is a punishable offense under the law, attracting strict penalties.

Parents Oppose SSLC Hindi Grading System, Demand Withdrawal

KALABURAGI

Parents of SSLC students in Kalaburagi have urged the Karnataka government to withdraw the recently introduced grading system for the Hindi language, expressing concern over its impact on students in the Kalyana Karnataka region. Addressing a press conference, parents stated that Hindi has historically been a major medium of communication in the region since the Nizam era. They pointed out that proficiency in Hindi has helped many people from Kalyana Karnataka secure jobs in various states across the country.

Among the six subjects in SSLC, Hindi is considered one of the easiest for students to understand, read, and write after Kannada. Parents noted that students often score higher marks in Hindi compared to other subjects, and the new grading system could affect their overall performance.

They also highlighted regional differences, stating that while students from Mysuru and Kodagu regions may find Hindi challenging, students in Kalyana Karnataka rely on it for better scoring opportunities.

LPG CRISIS

LPG Shortage Troubles Families amid Supply Disruptions

VIJAYAPURA

The shortage of household cooking gas (LPG) continues to trouble residents across Vijayapura district, causing major inconvenience to families in their daily lives. The ongoing disruption in supply has left many households struggling to manage basic cooking needs.

According to sources, the shortage is linked to prevailing war-related conditions that have affected the distribution chain. As a result, long queues have been seen outside gas agencies, especially Bharat Gas and Indane Gas outlets near Station Road in the city. Many residents have been waiting from early morning in the hope of getting cylinders.

However, the situation has added to public frustration as several agencies have displayed "No Stock" boards, forcing people to return empty-handed. The lack of availability has hit women and families the hardest, as most households depend entirely on LPG for cooking.Residents have expressed anger over the irregular supply and lack of proper communication from gas agencies. Many complained that they were not informed about stock availability, leading to unnecessary waiting and crowding at distribution centres.

With the shortage continuing for several days, some families have been forced to look for alternative cooking methods, adding to their financial and physical burden. Citizens have urged the authorities to take immediate action to restore normal supply.They have also demanded better transparency from agencies regarding stock updates to avoid confusion and ensure fair distribution of LPG cylinders across the district without further delay.

QUICK READ

Over 39,000 Students Appear for SSLC Examination

VIJAYAPURA

According to data released by the education department, a total of 40,448 students had registered for the SSLC examination in Vijayapura district. Out of these, 39,597 students appeared for the exam, while 851 candidates remained absent. Officials confirmed that the examination was conducted smoothly across all centers without any major incidents. Adequate arrangements were made to ensure a fair and transparent process, including proper distribution of question papers and strict monitoring at examination centers. The department stated that all necessary measures were taken to maintain discipline and prevent malpractice.

Live Monitoring Ensures Transparency in SSLC Exam

VIJAYAPURA

In a bid to conduct fair and transparent examinations, district authorities in Vijayapura introduced advanced monitoring systems during the SSLC Examination 2026. As part of these efforts, a centralized control and monitoring center was established to oversee examination activities across multiple centers in real time. District officials, including senior administrators, visited the central monitoring facility to review the arrangements and assess the effectiveness of the system. The control center enabled live streaming of examination halls from various locations, allowing authorities to closely monitor proceedings and ensure adherence to rules and guidelines.

Women Protest Outside Police Station Over Government Job Fraud

DODDABALLAPUR

Tension prevailed outside the Doddaballapur police station as several women gathered and demanded justice after reportedly being duped in a job fraud case. The victims alleged that they were promised government employment by certain individuals who collected large sums of money under the pretext of securing positions for them. According to the complainants, the accused had assured them of confirmed placements in government departments, convincing them with false claims and assurances. Trusting these promises, the women paid significant amounts, only to later realize that they had been deceived. The victims, visibly distressed, assembled in front of the police station and raised slogans, urging authorities to take immediate action against those responsible.

Mahavir Jayanti Celebrated with Emphasis on Peace & Truth

The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm, highlighting his timeless teachings of non-violence, truth, and sacrifice.

GADAG

The event, organized by the Jain community, witnessed the participation of several dignitaries who stressed the importance of adopting Lord Mahavir's principles in daily life.

Speakers at the gathering noted that his teachings of non-violence, truth, and renunciation remain highly relevant in today's world, where conflicts and intolerance continue to rise. They emphasized that following these ideals can pave the way for peace, harmony, and equality in society.

A keynote speaker at the event remarked that Lord Mahavir's message serves as a guiding light, encouraging individuals to lead a life rooted in compassion and moral values. He highlighted that by embracing these teachings, people can contribute to building a more just and peaceful society. Another speaker pointed out that Mahavir's philosophy is not limited to any one community but is universal in nature, offering solutions to many of the challenges faced by humanity today.

The speakers also called upon government institutions, educational bodies, and social organizations to actively promote these values. They suggested that celebrating such occasions with sincerity and dedication would help in spreading awareness about the importance of ethical living and mutual respect.

The president of the organizing committee, in his address, reiterated that the principles of non-violence, truth, and self-discipline are essential for achieving social harmony. He urged people to incorporate these teachings into their everyday lives to foster unity and peaceful coexistence.

The program began with floral tributes to Lord Mahavir, followed by a series of speeches and cultural activities. Community members, including men and women from different regions, actively participated in the celebrations. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving attendees inspired to uphold the values taught by Lord Mahavir and work towards a more harmonious society.

Smooth Conduct of SSLC Exam Across Districts

GADAG

According to an official statement issued by the Department of School Education, the first phase of the SSLC Examination was held without any major disruptions. The examination was conducted at 61 designated centers across the district, where strict monitoring and supervision were ensured by appointed officials.Senior authorities, including district-level officers, were actively involved in overseeing the examination process. Supervisors and monitoring teams were deployed at all centers to maintain transparency and prevent any irregularities. Additionally, special squads were formed and stationed at key locations to ensure adherence to examination guidelines.The distribution of question papers was carried out efficiently and within the stipulated time. Officials confirmed that all materials reached the respective centers securely before the commencement of the examination. After the completion of the examination, answer sheets were collected and transported under tight security arrangements. Police personnel were deployed to ensure the safe handling and storage of the answer scripts.

Data shared by the department revealed that a total of over 70,000 students had registered for the examination across the district. Out of these, a significant number of students appeared for the test, reflecting a high attendance percentage. However, a small percentage of candidates remained absent.Authorities expressed satisfaction with the overall conduct of the examination, noting that proper planning and coordination played a crucial role in its success. They also appreciated the efforts of teachers, staff members, and law enforcement agencies who contributed to maintaining discipline and order.The department reiterated its commitment to conducting fair and transparent examinations and assured that similar measures would be implemented in the upcoming phases. The successful execution of the first phase has set a positive tone for the remaining examinations, boosting confidence among students and parents alike.

Demand Raised for New State Chief for Bhim Army

TUMAKURU

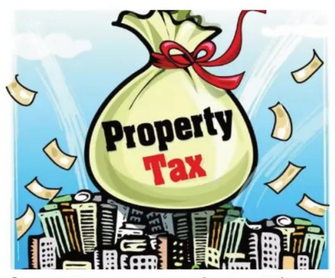
Leaders of the Bhim Army in Tumakuru district have urged the national leadership to appoint a new state president for Karnataka, citing organizational challenges and the need for stronger leadership. A formal appeal has been submitted by district leaders of the Bhim Army, emphasizing the urgent need to appoint a new state president to lead the organization in Karnataka. The request was made by district president Ayyanapalya Srinivas, who addressed the concern through a written communication to senior national leaders, including Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan and Vinay Ratan Singh, along with state-level coordinators.

According to the appeal, the organization has been facing leadership issues for the past two months due to the absence of a state president.

The municipal authorities in Nargund have announced revised property tax rates for the financial year 2026–27

Revised Property Tax Rates Announced for 2026–27

NARGUND



According to an official statement released by the Department of Information and Public Relations, the revised tax structure applies to various categories of properties within the Nargund municipal limits. The updated rates have been finalized as part of the annual revision process aimed at improving civic infrastructure and public services.

As per the notification, open plots will be taxed at a rate of 4 percent, while residential buildings will also attract a tax rate of 4 percent. Commercial and industrial properties, on the other hand, will be subject to a slightly higher tax rate of 5 percent. Authorities stated that these revisions are in line with existing regulations and are necessary to meet the growing demands of urban development.

To encourage early payment, the municipal body has introduced incentives for taxpayers. Property owners who pay their taxes between April 1 and April 30 will be eligible for a 5 percent rebate. Those who make payments between May 1 and June 30 will not incur any penalties, offering an additional grace period for compliance.

However, officials have cautioned that delays beyond this period will attract penalties. Starting from July 1, a penalty of 2 percent per month will be imposed on outstanding dues until full payment is made. The administration has emphasized that timely payment of property taxes is essential for the effective functioning of civic services, including maintenance of roads, sanitation, and public amenities.

Municipal authorities have appealed to residents, property owners, and stakeholders to cooperate by paying their taxes within the stipulated timeframe. They highlighted that the revenue generated from property taxes plays a vital role in the overall development of the town and in enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.

REVISED PROPERTY TAX RATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2026-27 IN SHIRAHATTI TOWN PANCHAYAT

SHIRAHATTI

The Shirahatti Town Panchayat has announced revised property tax rates for the financial year 2026–27, urging property owners to ensure timely payments and take advantage of available rebates. According to an official release issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, the revised tax structure applies to all properties within the jurisdiction of the Shirahatti Town Panchayat. The new rates have been introduced as part of the annual revision process to strengthen civic administration and improve basic infrastructure in the town.

As per the notification, open plots will be taxed at a rate of 3 percent, while residential buildings will attract a tax rate of 4 percent. Commercial and industrial properties will be subject to a higher rate of 5 percent. Authorities stated that these revised rates are aligned with regulatory guidelines and are necessary to meet the increasing financial requirements for urban development and maintenance of public services.

To encourage prompt payment, the town panchayat has announced a 5 percent rebate for taxpayers who clear their dues between April 1 and April 30. Additionally, payments made between May 1 and June 30 will not attract any penalties, offering a grace period for property owners to fulfill their obligations without financial burden.

However, officials have warned that delays beyond June 30 will result in penalties. From July 1 onwards, a penalty of 2 percent per month will be imposed on unpaid taxes until the full amount is settled. The authorities emphasized that timely payment is essential for ensuring the smooth functioning of civic services such as sanitation, road maintenance, and other public amenities.The Shirahatti Town Panchayat has appealed to all residents and property owners to cooperate by paying their taxes within the stipulated timeframe. Officials noted that property tax revenue is a key source of funding for developmental.

PUBLIC OBJECTIONS INVITED ON LAND ALLOCATION PROPOSALS IN SHIRAHATTI

SHIRAHATTI

The Shirahatti Town Panchayat has invited objections and suggestions from the public regarding proposed land allocations for civic and institutional purposes, giving citizens 30 days to respond. According to an official notification issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, the Shirahatti Town Panchayat has proposed the allocation of certain plots reserved for public utility within its jurisdiction. The proposals were discussed and approved during a municipal meeting held on March 17, 2026, in the presence of administrative officials and elected representatives.

One of the proposed allocations involves a site located in Ward No. 3, measuring 30 x 40 meters, which has been earmarked for civic amenities. The land is intended to be allotted for the construction of a building for a working journalists' association. Authorities stated that this initiative aims to support institutional development and provide necessary infrastructure for professional bodies.

Another proposal pertains to a larger plot located in Ward No. 16, measuring approximately 621 square meters. This land has been identified for allocation to an organization engaged in social service, education, and skill development activities. Officials highlighted that the proposed use of the land aligns with the broader objective of promoting community welfare and capacity-building initiatives in the region.

The town panchayat clarified that both allocations are subject to public scrutiny as part of a transparent governance process. Citizens, stakeholders, and concerned individuals have been invited to submit their objections or suggestions in writing within 30 days from the date of publication of the notice.

Officials further stated that any objections received after the stipulated deadline will not be considered. Interested individuals can submit their responses to the office of the Shirahatti Town Panchayat, where additional details regarding the proposals are also available for review.

Mahavir Jayanti Celebrated at NWKRTC Headquarters

HUBBALLI

The birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir was celebrated with devotion at the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation headquarters in Hubballi, with officials highlighting his teachings of truth and non-violence.The North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation organized a commemorative event at its central office in Hubballi on March 30, 2026, to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir. The program was attended by officials and staff members who paid tribute to the revered spiritual leader and reflected on his teachings.

The event began with Chief Works Engineer S. V. Angadi offering floral tributes to the portrait of Lord Mahavir and lighting a ceremonial lamp to formally inaugurate the celebration. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of incorporating Mahavir's principles of truth, non-violence, and compassion into daily life. He noted that these values are essential for building a peaceful and harmonious society.

NARGUND LAND OBJECTIONS

Public Invited to Submit Objections on Land Lease

NARGUND

The Karnataka government has issued a public notice inviting suggestions and objections regarding a proposed land lease decision in Nargund town. Citizens have been given a 15-day window to respond to the proposal.According to an official release from the Department of Information and Public Relations, the proposal concerns land reserved for public and civic amenities within the Nargund municipal limits. The identified plot, listed under official records, has been proposed for lease allocation as per government procedures and municipal resolutions.

The matter was discussed during a general body meeting of the municipal council held on March 23, where a resolution was passed to lease the land for a period of 30 years. The proposal involves allocating the site to a local committee under a structured lease agreement, following guidelines set by the state government.

Officials clarified that the land in question falls under designated categories meant for public utility purposes. However, as part of due process and transparency, the authorities have opened the proposal for public feedback. Residents, stakeholders, and concerned citizens are encouraged to review the details and submit their opinions.

The notice specifically invites objections, suggestions, and feedback in written form within 15 days from the date of publication, which is March 31, 2026. Submissions must be directed to the municipal office for consideration. Authorities have clearly stated that any responses received after the deadline will not be entertained.Municipal officials emphasized that public participation is a crucial aspect of governance and decision-making. By inviting feedback, the administration aims to ensure that the final decision reflects the concerns and interests of the local community.

QUICK READ

Hotel Owner Brutally Assaulted After Asking for Food Bill

DODDABALLAPUR

A shocking incident has been reported from Doddaballapur, where a hotel owner was allegedly assaulted by customers after asking them to pay the bill for the food they consumed. The incident has raised concerns over safety in public places. According to initial reports, the incident took place at a local hotel in Doddaballapur town. A group of customers had visited the hotel and consumed food. When the hotel owner asked them to settle the bill, a verbal argument reportedly broke out between the two parties. What began as a minor disagreement quickly escalated into a violent confrontation. The accused customers allegedly lost their temper and launched a brutal attack on the hotel owner. The severity of the assault left the owner seriously injured, causing panic among others present at the scene.

Women Protest outside Police Station Alleging Job Scam

DODDABALLAPUR

Tension prevailed outside the Doddaballapur Police Station as a group of women staged a protest, alleging they were cheated under the pretext of being offered government jobs. The women demanded immediate justice and strict action against those responsible. According to reports, several women gathered in front of the Doddaballapur Police Station, raising slogans and expressing their anguish over an alleged job fraud. The victims claimed that unknown individuals had promised them government employment in exchange for money, luring them with assurances of secure positions. The women alleged that they had paid significant amounts to the accused, believing the promises made to them. However, as time passed, neither were they given any job appointments nor was their money returned. Realizing they had been deceived, the victims approached the police seeking justice.

Over 200 Villagers Fall Ill after Consuming Ram Navami Prasada

BETTENAHALLI

More than 200 villagers reportedly fell ill after consuming food distributed during Sri Ram Navami celebrations in Bettenahalli village under Jalige Gram Panchayat in Devanahalli taluk, raising concerns over food safety during large community events. The incident occurred in Bettenahalli village, where annaprasada (community meal) was organized as part of the Sri Ram Navami festivities. A large number of villagers had gathered to participate in the celebrations and consume the prasada offered during the religious event. Shortly after consuming the food, several people began experiencing symptoms of illness, including nausea, vomiting, and general discomfort. As the number of affected individuals increased rapidly, panic spread across the village. According to initial reports, over 200 villagers were impacted by the suspected food contamination.

Bike Stolen Using Duplicate Key near Railway Gollahalli

Unidentified thieves stole a motorcycle using a duplicate key near Railway Gollahalli in Nelamangala taluk, raising concerns over rising vehicle theft cases in the area.

NELAMANGALA

A motorcycle theft was reported near Railway Gollahalli in Nelamangala taluk, where miscreants allegedly used a duplicate key to steal a parked bike and fled the scene. The incident has once again highlighted the growing incidents of vehicle theft in the region.According to preliminary information, the stolen vehicle was a Hero Splendor motorcycle that had been parked near a residential or

public area. The accused reportedly managed to unlock and start the bike using a duplicate key, indicating a preplanned act. The theft was discovered when the owner returned to find the vehicle missing.Local residents expressed concern over the incident, stating that such thefts have been occurring more frequently in recent times. They urged authorities to increase patrolling, especially in vulnerable areas such as isolated roads and residential neighborhoods.Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. Officials are reviewing nearby surveillance footage and gathering information to identify the suspects. Efforts are also underway to track the stolen vehicle.Authorities have advised vehicle owners to take extra precautions, including using additional locking systems and avoiding parking in secluded areas. They also urged citizens to report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.

The incident has added to growing concerns about public safety in the area, with residents calling for stricter enforcement measures to curb such crimes.

CCB Raid Busts Human Trafficking and Prostitution Racket

DODDABALLAPUR

In a major crackdown, the City Crime Branch carried out a raid on a lodge in Doddaballapur following credible information about illegal activities being conducted on the premises. The operation led to the exposure of a suspected human trafficking network involved in running a prostitution racket.

According to police sources, the lodge was allegedly being used as a hub for illegal activities, where individuals were trafficked and forced into prostitution. Acting on a tip-off, the CCB team conducted a surprise raid and rescued several women from the location. Authorities also detained multiple suspects believed to be involved in organizing and facilitating the operation.

Officials stated that preliminary investigations suggest the accused had been running the racket for some time, luring victims with false promises and exploiting them. The rescued individuals have been shifted to safe facilities, where they are being provided necessary support and counseling.During the raid, police reportedly seized several items related to the illegal activities, including records and other materials that could serve as evidence in the case.

The City Crime Branch (CCB) conducted a raid on a lodge in Doddaballapur, uncovering an alleged human trafficking and prostitution racket operating in the area.

Kanshi Ram Jayanti was celebrated by the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Kavalhosahalli near Anekal, with leaders highlighting his contributions and vision for social justice

Kanshi Ram Jayanti Celebrated by BSP in Anekal

ANEKAL

The Bahujan Samaj Party organized a commemorative event to mark the birth anniversary of Kanshi Ram at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Kavalhosahalli, near Anekal. The program witnessed the participation of party leaders, workers, and supporters who gathered to pay tribute to the founder of the BSP and reflect on his ideology.

Speaking on the occasion, BSP State General Secretary K.C. Nagaraj emphasized that Kanshi Ram's dedication and commitment to social equality continue to inspire generations. He stated that Kanshi Ram played a crucial role in expanding the BSP across the country and strengthening its presence as a voice for marginalized communities. According to him, Kanshi Ram's efforts laid a strong foundation for a movement aimed at achieving social justice and equality.

Nagaraj further noted that the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution can only be effectively implemented through the principles and policies of the BSP. He stressed that the party remains committed to ensuring that constitutional values reach every section of society, particularly those who have historically been deprived of opportunities.

During his address, Nagaraj also criticized major political parties, stating that they have failed to benefit the majority of the population. He alleged that both the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress have focused on gaining power through money and caste-based politics rather than addressing the real issues faced by people.

He added that there is a growing demand for change among, with more individuals showing interest in the BSP's ideology. The party, he said, will continue to create awareness among citizens about social inequality and work towards empowering marginalized communities.

The event concluded with party members reaffirming their commitment to Kanshi Ram's ideals and pledging to strengthen the movement for social justice. The celebration served as a reminder of his enduring legacy and the continued relevance of his vision in contemporary society.

KUWJ Announces 2024 Annual Awards; 40th Conference in Bidar

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Working Journalists Association (KUWJ) has announced its annual awards for 2024, honouring journalists across print, electronic and photojournalism categories. The awards will be presented at the 40th State Journalists' Conference scheduled to be held in Bidar on April 11 and 12, according to State President Shivananda Tagadur and General Secretary G.C. Lokesh.

The G. Narayanaswamy Award for Best Rural Report has been awarded to Yogesh Mallur (Vartha Bharati, Bengaluru) and K.A. Ismail (Shakti, Kodagu). The Patel Bhairahanumayya Award for Best Human Interest Story goes to Mallayya Polampalli (Kannada Prabha, Shahapur, Yadgir) and Ravikumar Kaggannanavar (Kannadamma, Dharwad). The Giridhar Award for Best Crime Report is conferred on Basavaraj Kattimani (Kannada Prabha, Hunasagi) and P.K. Ravikumar (Vijayavani, Mysuru).

The B.S. Venkataram Award for Best Scoop has been given to Odesh Sakleshpur (Prajavani, Ramanagara) and Mahesh Munnyanavar Math (Prajavani, Mahalingpur). The K.A. Nettakalappa Award for Best Sports Report goes to Vinayak Deshpande (Samyukta Karnataka, Hubballi) and Prasad Shettigar (Vijayavani, Bengaluru). The Khadri Shamanna Award for Best Political Analysis is awarded to Dayashankar Maili (Suddimoola, Mysuru) and Shankar Pagoza (Udayakala).

Among other winners, M.G. Nayak and Venkatesh S. Samp (weekly articles); Jayarama, Phalanakar (forest reporting); Nagaraj Navimane and M. Narasimhammurthy (wildlife); and Rajesh Shetty Dota and Sharath Kumar S. (economically weaker sections) have been recognised.

Awards for rural life reporting go to Shankar Katte Malalawadi, Shivaraj Sunkad and Prashanth Pade. The Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Memorial Award recipients include H.P. Praveen, Prashanth Ripponpet, V.S. Honnachar and Zukriya. Agriculture reporting awards go to Venkatesh Gudepanavar and Manjunath N.

Other awardees include Satish Babu and A. Akshara (Nadiger Krishnaraya Award); A. Appajigowda (soldiers' report); Afyan Yasmin (The Hindu) and Vikar Ahmed (Frontline) for English reporting; Shivananda Hiremath and Tiptur Krishna (investigative reporting); and S. Jagadish Kumar (film category).

Further honours go to Mahesh Hegde, Amaresh Hiremath, Sandesh, Vijaykumar, K.V. Balaram, M.R. Manjunath, Ganesh, Babu Miya, M.P. Arun Kumar, Mahantesh Hiremath, K.S. Janardhanachari, Ramesh, K.V. Nagaraj, B. Shivarudrappa, Ramesh Kumar Nayak, Ramakrishna, Devaraj Kappasogi, Navyajyoti, Ravindra Talagade, Brahmananda Hadagali, H.K. Nataraj and Ramachandraya Kunigal.

In the electronic media category, awards have been announced for Prashanth Nathu, Pramod, Arun C. Badiger, Kiran Kumar D.K., P.D. Veeranna, Thimmegowda, Maruti Pavagada, Raju B.R., Vithal Kyarawad and Mohanakrishna.

KUWJ Special Awards will be conferred on Vijay Biradar, Shridhar Uchchil, Shrikanth and Sanjeeva Rao Kulkarni.

Joint Celebration of Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram Jayanti Planned

DODDABALLAPURA

MLA Dheeraj Muniraj announced that the birth anniversaries of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram will be celebrated jointly on April 14 at a single venue in Doddaballapura. Preparations are underway in Doddaballapura for the grand celebration of the birth anniversaries of two prominent national leaders, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram. MLA Dheeraj Muniraj made the announcement during a pre-meeting held at the Taluk Office, highlighting the importance of honoring both leaders together.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA emphasized that both Dr. Ambedkar and Dr. Jagjivan Ram dedicated their lives to the upliftment of the poor and marginalized sections of society. He noted that their contributions continue to inspire efforts toward social justice and equality across the country.

Since the birth anniversaries of the two leaders fall within a week of each other, authorities have decided to celebrate the occasions together this year, as has been the practice in previous years. The joint celebration is expected to bring together various community members, leaders, and organizations to pay tribute to their legacy.

The MLA also informed that a reception committee will be formed to oversee the arrangements for the event. The committee will include leaders from Dalit organizations, community representatives, and other stakeholders. A meeting of the committee is scheduled to be held on April 1, during which decisions regarding the venue, program schedule, and other logistical arrangements will be finalized.

Officials stated that the celebration aims to promote unity and awareness about the ideals and teachings of both leaders. Various cultural and social programs are expected to be organized as part of the event.

The announcement has generated interest among local residents, with many expressing their willingness to participate in the celebrations. Authorities have assured that the event will be conducted in a grand and organized manner, reflecting the significance of the occasion.

Mass Cleanliness Drive Launched in Haliyal Constituency, Says R.V. Deshpande

KARWAR

Emphasizing Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean and healthy society, MLA R.V. Deshpande inaugurated a large-scale cleanliness drive in Haliyal constituency, marking it as the first such initiative among 224 constituencies in the state.Speaking after launching the campaign at Chennamma Circle in Dandeli on Tuesday, Deshpande highlighted that maintaining cleanliness is essential for ensuring a healthy lifestyle. He noted that the state government has initiated a unique cleanliness across Karnataka, and Haliyal constituency has taken the lead in implementing this effort.A three-day cleanliness drive has been planned across the Haliyal constituency, covering key areas such as Dandeli, Joida, and surrounding regions. Deshpande pointed out that Dandeli, being an industrial hub and an emerging tourism destination, must uphold high standards of cleanliness.

Five Women Accused of Extorting ₹25 Lakh from Cinema Hall Owner

RAMANAGARA

A shocking case of extortion has come to light in Ramanagara, where a group of five women allegedly threatened and cheated a cinema hall owner of nearly ₹25 lakh. The victim, a 52-year-old man living alone, has filed a complaint with the police, prompting an investigation into the incident.

According to police sources, the victim is a resident of the Agrahara block in Ramanagara and has been living alone for the past seven years after separating from his wife. With no immediate family support—no parents or children—he is believed to have been targeted by the accused.

The complaint reveals that the incident began around six to seven months ago when a woman from the Kotipura area visited his cinema hall under the pretext of watching a movie. During her visit, she initiated a conversation with the theatre owner and expressed her desire to marry him. However, the man declined her proposal.Following this, the woman allegedly returned with two other women, gradually introducing more members into the scheme. Over time, the group of five women reportedly began pressuring the victim for money and valuables. Initially, they demanded smaller amounts, but as the situation escalated, they allegedly extorted larger sums from him.

Surge in Wild Elephant Sightings Alarms Residents in Kanakapura Taluk

RAMANAGARA

Residents of Kanakapura taluk in Bengaluru South district were left startled after a herd of wild elephants was spotted moving through villages, raising fresh concerns over increasing human-wildlife encounters in the region.

In a recent development, a group of wild elephants was seen near Koggedoddi village in Kanakapura taluk, creating panic among local residents. The sighting has added to growing reports of increased elephant movement in parts of Bengaluru South district, indicating a possible rise in wildlife activity near human settlements.

Eyewitnesses reported that the herd was later seen advancing towards Eka Eki village, catching villagers off guard. The sudden appearance of the elephants caused widespread alarm, with people rushing out of their homes to alert others. Both members of the public and forest department staff reacted swiftly, raising loud cries and shouting in an attempt to drive the animals away from the residential areas.

Startled by the noise and human presence, the herd reportedly retreated from the spot and moved back towards forested areas. While no injuries or damage to property have been reported so far, the incident has heightened anxiety among villagers who fear further encounters in the coming days.

Forest officials believe that the elephants may have strayed from the nearby Sangama Wildlife Sanctuary in search of food and water. Such movements are not uncommon, especially during certain seasons when natural resources within forest areas become scarce, forcing wildlife to venture closer to human habitation.Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious and avoid approaching or provoking the animals. The forest department is said to be monitoring the situation closely and taking necessary measures to ensure both public safety and the protection of wildlife.

Allama Prabhu and Jedara Dasimayya Jayanti Celebrated with Devotion

HAVERI

Haveri witnessed a spiritually enriching event as the birth anniversaries of revered Shivasharanas Allama Prabhu and Jedara Dasimayya were celebrated with devotion and reverence at Sri Murugheematha on Kaginale Road.

The program was organized jointly by Basavakendra Sri Hosamatha and Shoonya Pratishthana, Haveri. The celebrations took place in the premises of Sri Murugheematha, where devotees and dignitaries gathered to pay homage to the great saints of the Kannada Vachana tradition.

QUICK READ

Teachings of Mahavir Remain Relevant in Conflict-Ridden World: Karnakumar

Koppal

Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, Karnakumar, stated that the teachings of Lord Mahavir continue to hold timeless relevance in today's conflict-ridden world. He made these remarks during the celebrations of Mahavir Jayanti in Koppal on Tuesday. The event was organized at Ashoka Circle in Koppal city by the district administration, the Department of Kannada and Culture, and the Koppal City Municipal Council. Karnakumar inaugurated a procession as part of the Mahavir Jayanti celebrations and addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of philosophical teachings in addressing modern-day challenges. He emphasized that society today faces numerous social and moral issues, and such challenges can be effectively addressed through the wisdom and messages of great spiritual leaders.

Farmers Advised Against Cotton Sowing During Summer

Koppal

The Assistant Director of Agriculture in Koppal has issued an advisory urging farmers not to sow cotton crops during the summer season, citing risks of pest attacks, diseases, and reduced crop productivity. According to the agriculture department, cotton is a major crop grown in Koppal taluk during the monsoon season and requires specific climatic conditions for optimal growth. Officials stated that as per the recommendations of the Agricultural University, Bt cotton should ideally be sown between May and July 15, with the most suitable period being before June 15. The advisory warned that sowing Bt cotton during the months of March and April could lead to serious agricultural issues. Crops sown prematurely are more vulnerable to pest infestations, diseases, and unfavorable environmental conditions, which can significantly hinder plant growth and ultimately result in crop loss.

Sudi village to host grand jubilee chariot festival

A grand religious festival along with the golden jubilee celebration of a historic chariot procession will be held in Sudi village of Gadag district from May 6 to May 10, bringing together spiritual leaders, devotees, and cultural performers for a five-day event filled with religious, social, and cultural activities

GADAG

The festival is being organized at the Sudi Juktimath under the guidance of religious head Dr. Kottur Basaveshwara Shivacharya. The event marks the 50th year of the chariot festival and will also witness the inauguration of a newly constructed chariot. Organizers stated that this celebration is aimed at preserving and promoting the traditions and values of the Veerashaiva faith while strengthening community participation. Preparations for the festival are already underway, with a preliminary meeting held in the presence of several prominent community leaders and organizers. The organizers emphasized that this is a rare occasion as multiple revered spiritual leaders associated with the Panch Peetha tradition will participate in the celebrations, making it a significant spiritual gathering after many years.

The five-day program will include a variety of events catering to different sections of

society. On May 6, free health check-up camps, including eye examinations and blood donation drives, will be conducted. Cultural programs, including theatrical performances, will also be held in the evening. On May 7, sessions focusing on agriculture development, environmental awareness, and sustainable practices will take place, followed by folk dance performances by local artists.

On May 8, special programs dedicated to women's empowerment and awareness will be organized, highlighting their role in society and family well-being. Traditional cultural performances will also be staged in the evening. On May 9, youth-oriented programs will focus on motivation, awareness, and skill development, encouraging positive social engagement.

The main highlight of the festival will take place on May 10, when the grand chariot procession will be held in the morning, followed by a religious assembly and the formal inauguration of the new chariot. The celebrations will conclude with a cultural program in the evening.

Organizers have invited devotees and the general public to actively participate in all events, making the festival a grand success and a memorable spiritual experience for the entire region.

Milk Producers' Cooperative Society Celebrates Silver Jubilee in Magadi

MAGADI

Speaking at the program, BAMUL Director H.N. Ashok emphasized that dairy farming has become a strong economic backbone for rural communities. He noted that livestock-based activities are no longer limited to subsistence but have evolved into a profitable and sustainable enterprise for farmers. According to him, the steady growth of milk production in Karnataka has significantly contributed to improving the financial condition of rural households.

Ashok credited government support and cooperative initiatives for the remarkable increase in milk production across the state. He pointed out that subsidies, scientific feeding practices, and better veterinary support have played a key role in enhancing productivity. These efforts have ensured that dairy farming continues to remain a reliable source of income for

The Milk Producers' Cooperative Society in Veeragowdanadoddi village of Magadi marked its 25th anniversary with a grand silver jubilee celebration, highlighting the crucial role of dairy farming in strengthening rural livelihoods and boosting farmers' incomes

farmers, even during challenging agricultural seasons.

The cooperative society has been instrumental in providing a stable market for milk producers over the past 25 years. Farmers associated with the society benefit from timely payments, bonus incentives, and access to essential resources, which collectively strengthen their economic security. The society's leadership highlighted that cooperative institutions play a vital role in rural development and act as lifelines for farming communities.

President K.S. Siddalingaprasad encouraged farmers to integrate dairy farming with agriculture to maximize their income. He stressed that giving equal importance to both sectors can help farmers achieve financial stability. He also urged them to make full use of government schemes and facilities available for dairy development.

Assistant Director Ajay Kumar underlined the importance of quality milk production. He advised farmers to ensure proper nutrition for cattle and adopt scientific methods to improve yield and maintain quality standards. He also mentioned that government incentives per litre of milk are helping generate self-employment opportunities in rural areas.

During the celebration, milk cans and nutritious cattle feed were distributed to farmers as part of the silver jubilee initiative. Several dignitaries, officials, and villagers attended the event, making it a memorable occasion that celebrated the achievements and future potential of the cooperative movement in the region.

Commitment to Providing Quality Healthcare for All: Dr. G. Parameshwara

TUMAKURU

Speaking at the inauguration of the Center of Excellence at Sri Siddhartha Medical College in Tumakuru, Dr. G. Parameshwara highlighted the vision of delivering advanced healthcare services at affordable costs. He stated that the goal is to equip hospitals with modern medical technologies and infrastructure comparable to top corporate hospitals, ensuring that patients receive the best possible treatment locally.

He stressed that the institution aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services without compromise, benefiting both patients and medical students. According to him, access to advanced diagnostic tools and treatment facilities will not only improve patient care but also enhance the quality of medical education and training.

Dr. Parameshwara noted that the initiative would greatly benefit the general public by making high-end medical services more accessible. He urged people to make full use of these facilities and emphasized that the institution is committed to serving society with dedication and responsibility.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao also addressed the gathering and pointed out the growing importance of dental healthcare in modern times. He remarked that maintaining good dental health is essential for overall well-being and appearance, and the demand for dental services has significantly increased in recent years. He appreciated the efforts of the institution in providing advanced dental care facilities to the public.

State Women's Commission President Dr. Nagalakshmi Chowdhary highlighted that the institution is working with a mission to protect and improve public health, especially for the underprivileged. She added that facilities available in large hospitals are now being made accessible to common people through such initiatives.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including academic leaders, medical professionals, and administrative officials. The inauguration marks a significant step towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring that quality medical services are available to all sections of society.

Water to Be Released into Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal to Fill Lakes

KOPPAL

Authorities have decided to release water from the Tungabhadra reservoir into the Left Bank Main Canal to fill lakes in Koppal and Raichur districts, aiming to address drinking water needs in urban and rural areas. The decision has been taken based on water availability in the Tungabhadra reservoir for the 2025–26 water year, following directions issued by the Regional Commissioner of Kalaburagi. The move is intended to ensure adequate storage of drinking water in lakes located within municipal limits and villages across both districts. Officials stated that water will be released into the Tungabhadra Left Bank Main Canal as per a fixed schedule.

Applications Invited for District Project Assistant Post

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Department of Women and Child Development in Chikkaballapur has invited applications from eligible candidates for the post of District Project Assistant under the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme.

According to an official notification issued by the department, one vacancy is available for the position of District Project Assistant. Interested and qualified candidates are encouraged to apply within the stipulated deadline.

Applicants must possess a graduate degree or a postgraduate diploma in Management, Social Sciences, or Nutrition. In addition, candidates should have a minimum of two years of work experience in capacity building, along with supervisory skills. Strong communication abilities in the local language are essential, along with a fair command of English.

The department has also specified that candidates must have good computer knowledge, including familiarity with internet usage and email communication. The role requires teamwork, adaptability, and a willingness to travel extensively as part of project implementation and monitoring activities. Preference will be given to local candidates, and it is mandatory that the selected applicant belongs to the local area.

Eligible candidates can obtain and submit their applications at the office of the Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child Development, located at FB-05, 1st Floor, District Administration Building, Chikkaballapur. The last date to submit applications is April 15 by 5:00 PM.

Farewell Accorded to District Information Officer M. Junjanna

CHIKKABALLAPUR

District Information Officer M. Junjanna was given a warm farewell in Chikkaballapur following his promotion as Senior Assistant Director to Chitradurga district, marking the end of his decade-long service in the district. M. Junjanna, who served as Assistant Director in the Department of Information and Public Relations for the past ten years, was recently promoted by the government and transferred to Chitradurga district. In recognition of his dedicated service, separate farewell functions were organized on Tuesday at the department office in the District Administration Building and at the Press Club in the city.

The farewell events were attended by officials, journalists, and colleagues who appreciated Junjanna's contribution to strengthening communication between the administration and the public. Speakers highlighted his professionalism, commitment, and ability to effectively coordinate with media personnel during his tenure. Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar praised Junjanna for his sincere efforts in disseminating government information and maintaining transparency in public communication. He noted that Junjanna played a key role in ensuring that government schemes and initiatives reached the grassroots level through effective media engagement.

Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture D.M. Ravikumar also lauded Junjanna's work and wished him success in his new role. Members of the District Working Journalists' Association, including President Ravikumar, Treasurer Muddukrishna, General Secretary Kagati Nagarajappa, former President M. Jayaram, and State Committee Member N. Chandrashekar, were present during the event.

At the Press Club, journalists shared their experiences of working with Junjanna and commended his approachable nature and support for the media fraternity. They expressed confidence that he would continue to excel in his new assignment. In his response, Junjanna expressed gratitude to the district administration, colleagues, and journalists for their support throughout his tenure. He stated that his experience in Chikkaballapur had been enriching and would guide him in his future responsibilities.

The farewell concluded with best wishes for his continued success and recognition of his valuable service to the district.

NAME CHANGE

I, Raghunath Savekar, S/o Late. Gopalakrishna Rao, residing at: #212, Rathan Keerthi Nilaya, B-2 Block, Saraswathi Apartment, B D A Jnana Bharathi Enclave, Mylasandra, Valegarahalli, Kengeri, Bangalore -560060, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I am residing in the above said address. I declare that my original name is " RAGHUNATH SAVEKAR S/O LATE GOPALAKRISHNA RAO, the said name is entered in my educational documents and my old Passport bearing No. G 5373868 As per the Education Certificate SAVEKAR R G.
2. As Per the Original records available my Adhaar Card and Pan Card My name is RAGHUNATH SAVEKAR S/O GOPALAKRISHNA RAO N., Hence I am swearing to this affidavit to prove the same.

This affidavit Sworn before Notory T.D. Vedavathi, Channapatna. Date: 31-03-2026

DOCUMENT LOST

Sujatha, W/o **Bajjanna**, residing at J. Achammanahalli village, Y.N. Hosakote Hobli, Pavagada Taluk, Tumakuru District, hereby informs the public that the sale deed documents related to her property bearing Khata No. **784/784** and Property No. **152500601700401649** have been lost. The said documents were misplaced at her residence on **11/02/2026**. In this regard, a complaint has been registered at Y.N. Hosakote Police Station. If anyone finds these documents, they are kindly requested to return them to the above-mentioned address or contact the following number:
Mobile Number: 8747806525

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KAREPPA S/o THIPPANNA** R/o 215, Ambedkar Colony, Vaddu, Sandur, Bellary, Karnataka-583123, have changed the name of my minor son **GANDA SWAMY** aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as **GANDHADA SWAMY.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **N SRINIVAS S/o B NAGARAJU** R/o Srivari Nilayam, Piteel Balaramaiah Layout, Royal School Circle, Chintamani Town, Anjani Extension, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-563125, have changed the name of my minor son **TUSHAR NAIDU S** aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as **SAMRUDH NAIDU S.**

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To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

FESTIVAL DAY CELEBRATED

Mahavir Jayanti Celebrated by District Administration

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated by the district administration in Chikkaballapur, where officials highlighted the timeless teachings of Lord Mahavira, emphasizing compassion, non-violence, and righteous living as guiding principles for society. The event was organized on Tuesday at the Deputy Commissioner's office auditorium by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Kannada and Culture. Assistant Officer Arundhati, speaking on the occasion, said that the teachings of Lord Mahavira inspire people to lead a life rooted in kindness, non-violence, and moral values.

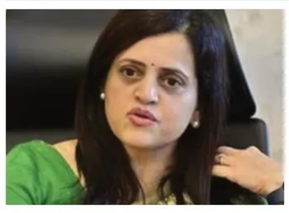
She explained that Mahavir Jayanti is one of the most significant festivals of Jainism, commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira, the 24th and last Tirthankara. She highlighted that Lord Mahavira preached five core principles—non-violence, truth, non-stealing, celibacy, and non-possessiveness—which continue to remain relevant in today's world. Devotees marked the occasion through prayers, fasting, charity, and various religious activities.

Community leader S.N. Amrit Kumar delivered a lecture on the life and philosophy of Lord Mahavira. He described how Mahavira, born as Vardhamana into a royal family in Bihar, developed a deep inclination towards spirituality from a young age. Despite being raised in a life of luxury, he became aware of human suffering and sought a path toward enlightenment.

Amrit Kumar elaborated that at the age of 30, Mahavira renounced worldly possessions and embarked on a spiritual journey in search of liberation from the cycle of birth and death. He adopted a life of strict discipline, simplicity, and deep meditation, which eventually led to his enlightenment. His journey through forests and mountains symbolized his commitment to spiritual awakening and service to humanity.

The program also featured a musical performance by artist Mahesh Kumar and his team, which captivated the audience. Officials from the Department of Kannada and Culture, including Assistant Director Ravikumar, along with community leaders and members of the public, were present at the event, making it a meaningful and inspiring celebration.

QUICK READ



Ashwini Bhide becomes first woman BMC chief

Mumbai

Senior IAS officer Ashwini Bhide has been appointed as the new Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), becoming the first woman to hold the post. A 1995-batch officer, she is known for her firm and result-oriented work style. Bhide earlier served in the Chief Minister's Office under Devendra Fadnavis and played a key role in Mumbai's underground metro projects. With prior experience as Additional Commissioner, she is expected to lead civic works and urban development until 2030.

TVK candidate booked in harassment case

Chennai

Police in Tiruvallur have registered a sexual harassment case against TVK candidate Prakash alias Kutty from Poonamallee. The complaint was filed by a woman party worker, who alleged that the incident took place at a wedding reception six months ago. She claimed she had earlier informed party leaders, but no action was taken. Police have begun an investigation and recorded the complainant's statement. Meanwhile, the accused's wife has filed a counter-complaint, calling the charges false and politically motivated. The controversy has emerged soon after Vijay announced candidates.

Elderly man held for 'abusing' 3 minor girls

Mumbai

A 70-year-old man has been arrested in Navi Mumbai for allegedly abusing three minor girls aged 7, 9, and 10. The incident reportedly took place on March 26 while the children were playing in a residential building. The case came to light after one child informed her mother about inappropriate behaviour, prompting the other two to share similar experiences. Police registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the POCSO Act. The accused was produced before a court and has been remanded to judicial custody as investigation continues.

India's voice influential in West Asia: UAE

India's deep connections across West Asia, along with its balanced and constructive diplomatic approach, position it as a key player in addressing and managing the ongoing regional crisis

NEW DELHI

Abdulnasser Alshaali, the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to India, has appreciated New Delhi's role in the ongoing West Asia crisis, stating that India's voice holds strong credibility and influence in the region.

He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's early phone call to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was seen as a gesture of solidarity and reflected the close and trusted relationship the two leaders have built over the past decade.

Alshaali also highlighted India's support for the UN Security Council Resolution 2817, which was backed by 135 countries. He said this move sent a strong and clear message against attacks on national sovereignty and the targeting of civilians and key infrastructure.

According to him, India's deep connections across West Asia and its balanced and constructive diplomatic approach make it an important player during the ongoing crisis.

Referring to the rising tensions, the envoy alleged that Iran has carried out repeated attacks on the UAE and its neighbouring countries since February 28. He stated that hundreds of missiles and drones have been launched towards the UAE, with several strikes targeting civilian areas such as residential buildings, airports, and other public facilities, leading to damage and injuries.

Despite the situation, Alshaali said the UAE has exercised restraint and continues to prioritise diplomacy. However, he made it clear that the country retains the right to defend its sovereignty and territory. He added that national security remains a top priority, and assured that all systems are functioning normally, with daily life continuing without disruption.

KEY POINTS

- UAE praises India's diplomatic solidarity
- Iran accused of sustained terrorist aggression
- UAE exercises strategic restraint, reserves right to defend
- Over 2,300 projectiles targeted UAE
- Regional stability a priority amid tensions

Bill to declare Amaravati AP's sole capital to be tabled in LS today

NEW DELHI

The Centre is set to introduce the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha on April 1 to declare Amaravati as the sole capital of the state.

The proposal aims to amend the 2014 Act by clearly stating that Amaravati will be the new capital of Andhra Pradesh.

According to the state government, the Bill will provide legal clarity on the capital issue and support the vision of the TDP-led NDA administration. The move follows the recent resolution passed by the Andhra Pradesh Assembly backing Amaravati as the single capital.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had introduced the resolution, which was unanimously approved by the Assembly. The resolution was later sent to key authorities, including Parliament leaders and the Union Home Minister, seeking statutory recognition for Amaravati.

The original Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, had allowed Hyderabad to serve as a common capital for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for up to ten years. After that period, Andhra Pradesh was required to establish its own capital.

Speaking on the development, Naidu reiterated that Amaravati will remain the permanent capital and said no changes will be made to this decision. He also outlined plans to develop Amaravati as a modern Blue-Green city with a focus on sustainability and advanced infrastructure.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the city will become one of the most livable in the country and a major driver of economic growth. He added that Amaravati is expected to take full shape as a developed capital by 2028, calling it a key foundation for the future progress of Andhra Pradesh.

Modi mourns passing of Suriname ex-prez

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the demise of former Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, calling it an irreparable loss for Suriname and the global Indian diaspora.

In a message, Modi said he was shocked by the sudden passing of Santokhi, whom he described as a close friend. He recalled their several meetings and highlighted Santokhi's efforts in strengthening ties between India and Suriname. Modi also noted the late leader's strong connection with Indian culture, mentioning that he had won admiration by taking his oath in Sanskrit.

The Prime Minister extended heartfelt condolences to Santokhi's family and the people of Suriname during this difficult time. He said Santokhi's contribution to public service and his commitment to improving bilateral relations would always be remembered.

Modi had last met Santokhi in November 2024 during the India-CARICOM Summit held in Georgetown, where both leaders reviewed progress in bilateral ties and discussed ways to expand cooperation. Their discussions focused on enhancing partnerships in various sectors, reflecting the close relationship between the two nations.

India and Suriname share warm and friendly relations, strengthened by strong cultural links and the presence of a large Indian-origin community in the South American nation. These ties date back over 150 years and continue to play an important role in shaping bilateral engagement.

The two countries maintain cooperation through several mechanisms, including joint commission meetings and working groups in sectors such as agriculture and development. India has also supported Suriname through financial assistance, including grants and lines of credit.

India-Russia hold talks on strategic ties

NEW DELHI

Vikram Misri held detailed talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko on Monday as part of the Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs). The meeting focused on reviewing the full range of bilateral relations and exchanging views on important regional and global issues. Both sides assessed the progress made in implementing decisions taken during the 23rd Annual Summit held in New Delhi in December 2025. The discussions covered key areas of cooperation under the India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, reflecting the strong and long-standing ties between the two countries.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the consultations provided an opportunity to review ongoing collaborations and identify ways to further strengthen cooperation. The two officials also discussed plans for upcoming high-level engagements between the leadership of both nations, indicating continued diplomatic momentum.

The Embassy of Russia in India stated that the talks included a wide range of topics on the bilateral agenda, along with an exchange of views on regional and international developments. The dialogue highlighted the shared interest of both countries in maintaining stability and cooperation on global issues.

During his visit, Rudenko also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. After the meeting, Jaishankar described the interaction as positive and said discussions were held on advancing cooperation across various sectors, along with reviewing regional and global developments. The previous round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Russia was held in Moscow in March 2025. The latest meeting in New Delhi reflects the continued engagement between the two nations to strengthen their partnership and address evolving global challenges through dialogue and cooperation.

Claims of time limit on Pink Saheli cards a lie: Delhi CM

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday dismissed rumours about the 'Pink Saheli Card', stating that it is functioning properly and claims about its misuse are false. She said some political groups are spreading misinformation for propaganda.

Gupta clarified that women can use the card multiple times for bus travel without any issue. She assured that the system is working smoothly and beneficiaries need not worry. Taking a dig at Aam Aadmi Party, she said the opposition is "annoyed" by welfare schemes aimed at women.

The 'Pink Saheli Card' has been introduced under the National Common Mobility Card framework, offering free bus travel to eligible women and transgender residents. It also allows paid travel on Metro and regional transit systems through a single smart card.

The scheme is one of four welfare initiatives recently launched by President Droupadi Murmu at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. The other schemes include free LPG cylinders during festivals, Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, and Meri Punji Mera Adhikaar.

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru-560070
No.: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/02/2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026
KPPP GOODS TENDER NOTICE
Two Cover System
Tenders are invited through e-procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, for MLA Grants. The Goods details can obtained from the KPPP web-site. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before dated: **15.04.2026** upto **4:00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from web-site at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
DIPR/CP/LC/6514/2025-26 Bangalore Urban Dist., Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan
IFT No.46/2025-26, Dated: 27.03.2026
Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per KW-3 maximum tender amount is Rs.80.42 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.80.26 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 08-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1247/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/AE-1/Tender/2025-26 Dated: 25.03.2026
Invitation For Short term Tender
Tender ref no:26/2025-26
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. (Sira, Koratagere, Madhugiri and Pavagada Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs.337.31 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://KPPP.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 04-04-2026 (up to 4.00 pm), Technical bids will be opened on 06-04-2026 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 07-04-2026 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri
DIPR/TUM/525/KSMCA/2025-26

Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, VVWW Campus, K.R.S Main Road, Yadavagiri, Mysuru-570020.
TN No: MCC/EE-ELE/TN-23/2025-26 Date: 26.03.2026
Tender Notification-23
Through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal Only
Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal for the works under General Fund: 2025-26 grant as required from Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Mysuru City Corporation. Details are as follows:

Sl. No	Description	Total Works	Tender Amount (INR)	Date of Publishing on KPP-Portal	Last Date for Submission of Bids	Technical/Financial Bid opening Date
1	Tender Works (KW-1)	03	27.87	26.03.2026	04.04.2026	06.04.2026/ 07.04.2026
2	Tender Works (KW-2)	01	64.50			
3	ReTender Works (KW-1)	04	38.45			
4	Goods KG-2	06	150	30.03.2026	16.04.2026	17.04.2026

Note: Any further changes/notifications will be published only through Karnataka Public-Procurement portal only and will not release any paper notification.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru.
DIPR/MYSORE/1904/SSC/2025-26

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/730/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.03.2026
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಂ.BDA/Commr/DC(LA)/ALAO/10/2002-03, ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.12.2001 ಮತ್ತು ಸಂ. BDA/Commr/DC(LA)/ALAO/09/2002-03, dated:15.04.2002ರಂತೆ ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಸೊಣ್ಣೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ರಾಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಕೊಮ್ಮಘಟ್ಟ, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ, ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಉಲ್ಲಾಳು ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಮಂಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಯುಡಿಡಿ/654/ಎಂಎನ್ಎಲ್/2002 ದಿನಾಂಕ:31.10.2002 ರಂದು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ನಂತರ ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯನಗರ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಸಂ.ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಅ.ಯು/ವಿ.ಅ.ಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/79/2003–04, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.04.2003 ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೇರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಗಿಡದಕೋನೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಲ್ಲತ್ತಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1976ರ ಕಲಂ.17(1) ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ನಂತರ ಸಂ.ನಅಇ/749/ಬೆಂಭೂಸ್ವಾ/2003, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2003 ರಂದು ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ.ಜುಂಜಮ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂ.42483–517/2002, ಮತ್ತು ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂ.16221–222/2003 ಆದೇಶದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳನ್ವಯ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ನೀಡುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೊಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ (Registration Card) ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.12.2002 ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ:2.11.2014 ರಂದು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ, ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್, ಬಿಡಿಎ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣದ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 04.07.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರಿಗೆ ಎರಡನೇ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಸದರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯ ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೂ ಮುಂಚೆ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕುಮಾರ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ರಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ** ನಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದಂತೆ ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಹವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಕಂದಾಯ ನಿವೇಶನದಾರರು ಬದಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ವಿವರ
1. ಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ (ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ)
2. ಸ್ವ ವಿಳಾಸ ಆಧಾರ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ಪ್ರತಿ,
3. ಸಹಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ (ಗೆಜೆಟೆಡ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿರುವ)
4. ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯಪತ್ರದ ದೃಢೀಕೃತ ನಕಲು
5. ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾರು ಪತ್ರದ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಖರೀದಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
6. ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಅವಲಂಬಿತ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನ / ಮನೆ ಹೊಂದಿರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ನೋಟರಿಯವರಿಂದ ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
7. ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಚಾಲ್ತಿ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ದರ ಪಾವತಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ (ನೋಟರೈಸ್)
8. ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇತರೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು
9. 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯ ಋಣಭಾರ ಪತ್ರ (ಫಾರಂ ನಂ.15, 16 ರಲ್ಲಿ)
10. ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ನಕ್ಷೆ (ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ಮತ್ತು ರೆವಿನ್ಯೂ ನಿವೇಶನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಿರುವ)
11. ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ/ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಕಂದಾಯ ಪಾವತಿ ರಸೀದಿ.
12. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೃಢೀಕರಣ ಪತ್ರ
13. ಇತರೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು.
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ/ವಾಟ್ಸ್‌ಪ್: 9483166622 (24x7). @BDAOfficialGok
ಸೂಚನೆ:
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Govt strategy ends Maoist insurgency after decades of conflict

'Data from the 1960s showed better income levels in Naxalbari compared to some non-affected areas, challenging claims that poverty alone caused the uprising'

NEW DELHI

The Centre has said a mix of strong security action and welfare measures helped end Maoist insurgency in India after decades. Union Home Minister Amit Shah told Parliament that the movement, which began in Naxalbari in 1967, was driven more by ideology than poverty.

He said data from the 1960s showed better income levels in Naxalbari compared to some non-affected areas, challenging claims that poverty alone caused the uprising. Inspired by Mao Zedong, the movement aimed to establish a "People's Democratic Republic" through armed struggle.

Over the years, the insurgency spread across several states, forming the "Red Corridor" and affecting crores of people. Shah said more than 20,000 people, including security personnel, lost their lives in the violence. He also claimed that insurgents collected large sums of money annually and disrupted development by targeting infrastructure and industries.

According to the government, most weapons used by Maoists were looted from police stations rather than imported. Frequent attacks, including raids on camps and prisons, added to the fear in affected regions.

The government said the situation changed after 2014 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with a policy combining strict action against militants and rehabilitation schemes. Surrendered cadres were given financial aid, housing, and support for education.

Officials said the number of affected districts has dropped sharply, with only a few areas now impacted. The government claims the insurgency has effectively ended as of March 31, 2026.

The Centre said its approach of strong enforcement along with development helped restore normalcy and strengthen democracy in previously affected regions.

QUICK READ

Kerala elections 2026: Guide to postal voting

Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala is set to hold Assembly elections in April 2026, with over two crore voters expected to take part. While most voters will visit polling booths with valid documents, some can use postal ballots. This option is available for those unable to travel, such as elderly citizens or persons with disabilities. Eligible voters can cast their vote by sending the ballot paper through post or via a system set up by the Election Commission of India, ensuring wider participation.

Udhayanidhi urges voters to oppose Palaniswami

Tiruvannamalai
Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Tuesday urged voters to defeat Edappadi K Palaniswami in the 2026 Assembly polls, accusing him of trying to bring the BJP into the state. Addressing a campaign, he said the election was a fight between Chief Minister M K Stalin-led alliance and Palaniswami. He also criticised the AIADMK-BJP tie-up as "Delhi-made" and expressed confidence that the DMK would return to power.

Rain, thunderstorms lash South Bengal

Kolkata
Several districts of south Bengal, including Kolkata, witnessed moderate rain with thunderstorms and lightning from Monday night, with cloudy skies continuing on Tuesday. The weather office said rain is likely to continue across West Bengal till Wednesday. An Orange Alert has been issued for seven districts, warning of heavy rain and strong winds up to 60 kmph. Kolkata and nearby areas are under Yellow Alert. Rain is expected to continue till Thursday, with temperatures likely to rise.

Maha launches healthy village campaign

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government will launch the 'My Village, Healthy Village' campaign from April 1 to improve healthcare services in rural areas and promote healthier lifestyles among citizens.

The initiative will be implemented under the guidance of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar.

The campaign, led by Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar and Minister of State Meghna Sakore Bordikar, aims to transform villages into healthier communities. Officials said the goal is to make this effort a people's movement with active public participation.

The campaign focuses on both treatment and prevention of diseases by promoting sanitation, safe drinking water, nutrition, and proper waste management

Under the programme, healthcare services will be strengthened from village level to the state level. The campaign focuses on both treatment and prevention of diseases by promoting sanitation, safe drinking water, nutrition, and proper waste management. It will also address communicable diseases, lifestyle illnesses, maternal and child health, and mental well-being.

All levels of local governance, including gram panchayats and district councils, will take part in the initiative. Awareness drives will be conducted to encourage villagers to adopt better health practices and maintain cleanliness.

To ensure smooth execution, committees have been formed at the state, district, and village levels. The state-level committee will monitor the overall progress, while implementation teams will carry out activities on the ground.

Villages will be assessed based on set health criteria, and those scoring above 70 per cent will be declared "Healthy Villages." These villages will receive recognition through certificates, mementoes, and financial rewards.

The state government has approved a budget of ₹80.75 crore for the campaign. Incentives will also be given to health institutions, with awards for top-performing hospitals, sub-health centres, and primary health centres at both district and state levels to encourage better performance.

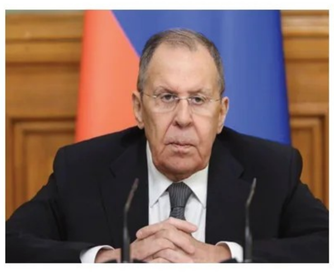
Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit India in May to attend the BRICS meeting and hold key bilateral talks with Indian leaders

Lavrov to visit India for BRICS Meet

NEW DELHI

Sergey Lavrov will visit India on May 14 and 15 to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The visit comes as India holds the BRICS presidency for 2026, with discussions expected to shape key outcomes for the upcoming summit.

According to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, the meeting will help decide the framework and direction of final documents to be presented during the summit. Alongside the multilateral event, Lavrov is also expected to hold bilateral talks with S. Jaishankar and other senior Indian officials.



BRICS, formed in 2006, originally included Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa joining in 2011. The group has expanded in recent years, with countries like Egypt, Iran, the UAE and Ethiopia becoming full members in 2024, followed by Indonesia in 2025. Several other nations have also joined as partners.

Earlier, Lavrov highlighted the strong ties between India and Russia, describing the relationship as a time-tested partnership based on trust and mutual respect. He expressed hope for continued high-level engagement, including a possible visit by Narendra Modi to Russia in 2026.

The visit follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to India in late 2025, which strengthened strategic cooperation between the two nations. Bilateral trade reached around $60 billion in 2025, with both sides aiming to increase it to $100 billion by 2030 through deeper cooperation in trade, technology and connectivity projects.

Mamata alleges BJP plot to manipulate Bengal voter lists

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to the Election Commission, alleging a conspiracy to tamper with voter lists ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. She claimed BJP agents were submitting large numbers of fake Form 6 applications to include non-residents in the state's electoral rolls.

In her letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, Banerjee described the move as "voter hijacking" and accused the BJP of repeating tactics allegedly used in other states. She said thousands of fraudulent applications were being filed at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer in West Bengal and in several districts.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns over delays in processing genuine voter applications. She claimed that over 60 lakh valid applications are still pending, while authorities are allegedly fast-tracking suspicious bulk submissions. According to her, this goes against Supreme Court directions and threatens free and fair elections.

Banerjee urged the Election Commission to immediately stop the alleged exercise and ensure that no fake voters are added after the final electoral roll was published on February 28, 2026. She stressed the need for transparency and protection of voting rights.

In her communication, she said the reported actions, if true, would be illegal and unconstitutional. She also warned that people in the state are closely watching developments.

Earlier, Banerjee had criticised the BJP during a rally, accusing the party of creating unrest ahead of elections. She claimed such actions could affect social harmony and daily life in the state.

The BJP has not yet responded to the allegations. The Election Commission is also yet to issue an official statement on the matter.

'West Asia conflict may trigger inflation concerns in India'

NEW DELHI

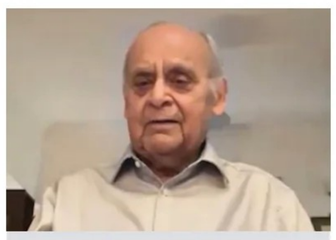
Former R&AW chief Vikram Sood has warned that the ongoing West Asia conflict could lead to inflation in India if the situation worsens. He said disruptions in oil and gas supplies from the Middle East may impact India within the next two to three months.

Sood explained that India depends heavily on oil from Arab nations and LNG from Qatar. Any disruption or rise in prices could increase inflation and create economic pressure. He noted that India also relies on the Strait of Hormuz for energy supplies, making the situation more sensitive.

He described the reported attack on Iran and killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as unfortunate, stating that such actions could have been avoided. While maintaining that Israel remains India's ally, he said the conflict has placed India in a difficult position.

Sood also pointed to the growing involvement of the United States, saying it appears to have joined the conflict alongside Israel. He suggested that both Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu may have misjudged Iran's response, as the situation continues to escalate.

He added that the conflict is expanding, with increased military deployments raising concerns about a prolonged war. There are mixed views on whether the US and Israel are aligned on extending the conflict or seeking a quick resolution. Meanwhile, US officials have indicated a possible timeline for ongoing military operations, while also stressing diplomatic efforts. Experts believe that any prolonged disruption in the region could directly affect global energy markets and India's economy, making the situation a serious concern for policymakers.



'PAK JUST OFFERING A VENUE'

Former R&AW chief Vikram Sood said Pakistan is not mediating US-Iran talks but only offering a venue. He questioned Islamabad's neutrality and doubted Iran's full trust due to past sectarian tensions. Pakistan's envoy Rizwan Saeed Sheikh said efforts are ongoing but complex due to conflict conditions. Meanwhile, Donald Trump claimed indirect talks via Pakistani channels are making progress.

Vijayan denies SDPI link, reaffirms secular stand

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday rejected allegations that the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) sought support from the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) for the April 9 Assembly elections, calling the claims "baseless."

Vijayan said neither the LDF nor any of its candidates had approached the SDPI for backing, including in the key Nemom constituency. He clarified that the front has never taken a position seeking support from outside its alliance. Referring to LDF candidate V Sivankutty, he added that no such request was made at the local level either.

The SDPI is widely known as the political wing of the now-banned Popular Front of India. Responding to questions about SDPI's declared support in Nemom, where the LDF is in a tight contest with the BJP, Vijayan maintained that any such support was neither requested nor part of any agreement.

He accused the Congress-led Opposition of trying to create confusion among voters by raising the issue. Vijayan recalled that during the 2021 Assembly elections, the political context in Nemom was different, with the LDF aiming to defeat the BJP in its only Assembly seat in Kerala.

The Chief Minister said some voters may have independently supported the LDF to defeat the BJP, but this should not be seen as a formal alliance. He stressed that the LDF remains committed to secular values and has never aligned with communal forces.

Reaffirming his government's stance, Vijayan said both majority and minority communalism are unacceptable, adding that Kerala has remained free of communal riots in the past decade due to consistent policies against divisive politics.

Marandi seeks CBI probe into Jharkhand liquor scam

RANCHI

Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi on Tuesday met Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and demanded a CBI probe into the alleged liquor scam in the state, which he claimed has crossed ₹750 crore.

In a memorandum, Marandi accused the Anti-Corruption Bureau of failing to conduct a fair investigation and alleged that it was shielding those involved. He said changes in the excise policy in 2022 favoured a select group, leading to major revenue losses.

He further claimed that although arrests were made, the agency failed to file charge sheets within 90 days, allowing several accused to secure bail. Among those arrested were senior officials, including former Excise Secretary Vinay Kumar Chaubey and Joint Excise Commissioner Gajendra Singh.

Marandi alleged that even after several months, no charge sheet has been filed, resulting in most of the accused being released. He termed this delay as either negligence or possible collusion.

He also pointed to a businessman linked to the case who is reportedly absconding. Marandi urged the Governor to intervene, ensure speedy investigation, and recommend a CBI probe to bring those responsible to justice and restore public trust.

TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Dhami declares open National Flag Memorial

CHAMPAWAT

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday inaugurated a National Flag Memorial and participated in the 'Mukhya Sevak Samvad' programme in Champawat.

He hoisted the Tricolour, joined citizens in singing the national anthem, and paid tribute to freedom fighters.

A large number of residents and BJP workers attended the event. The Chief Minister interacted with people from different sections of society, listening to their views and suggestions during the Samvad programme. Earlier, Dhami travelled from Kashipur to Khatima by road, receiving a warm welcome at several places. Crowds gathered along the route in towns including Kashipur, Bajpur, Gadarpur, Rudrapur, Dineshpur, Kichha, and Sitarganj. People greeted him with flowers and enthusiastic support.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also offered prayers at the Mata Bal Sundari Temple. He prayed for the happiness, prosperity, and development of the state. He announced financial support from the Chaiti Mela fund for the beautification of the temple and development of surrounding areas.

Dhami also inaugurated a bhajan programme at the temple premises by lighting a ceremonial lamp. He said the government is committed to preserving cultural heritage while ensuring overall development across Uttarakhand.

Officials said the initiatives aim to strengthen public engagement and promote development in the region.

NO ENTRY FEE HIKE ON THE CARDS: SUKHU

SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday said the government may restore the earlier system of collecting entry fees separately, amid ongoing controversy over the issue.

Speaking in the Assembly, Sukhu said the state had earlier merged different charges, including toll tax, with FASTag for convenience. However, the government is now considering returning to the previous system where fees were collected separately. He added that a final decision will be taken soon. The Chief Minister made it clear that no increase has been made in any category of entry fee and alleged that confusion is being deliberately spread. He said misinformation about toll tax and entry fee has led to public concern and protests. Addressing the issue's inter-state aspect, Sukhu said he tried to contact Punjab Chief Minister regarding the matter but could not connect. He added that he has discussed the issue with Punjab Congress leaders Raja Warring and Partap Singh Bajwa.

QUICK READ

INS Trikand strengthens ties with Mozambique navy

Colombo

The Indian Navy's guided missile frigate, INS Trikand, wrapped up its three-day visit to Maputo, Mozambique, on March 29. During the stay, the ship conducted joint exercises, training, and professional exchanges with the Mozambique Navy, boosting maritime cooperation. India also delivered HADR relief supplies and ran a medical camp at the Mozambique Navy Hospital, attended by top officials including Health Minister Dr. Ussene Hilario Isse. Captain Sachin Kulkarni met the Indian High Commissioner. On departure, the ship carried out EEZ patrols with Mozambican personnel onboard.

IndiGo boosts India-Sri Lanka air connectivity

Colombo

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to India, Mahishini Colonne, celebrated stronger air links as IndiGo launched six weekly flights between Delhi and Colombo starting March 29. This adds to existing services by SriLankan Airlines and Air India, bringing nearly 27 weekly flights. The expansion reflects growing India-Sri Lanka connectivity. Key initiatives include ferry services between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai, Chennai-Jaffna flights, and UPI QR payments. Plans for an Economic Land Corridor, cross-border pipelines, and power grid are underway, highlighting the nations' focus on people-to-people and economic partnership.

Florida to rename Palm Beach airport after Trump

Washington DC

Palm Beach International Airport in Florida will be renamed "President Donald J. Trump International Airport," Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced through a signed bill. Eric Trump, the former president's son, thanked state officials and lawmakers for supporting the change, which takes effect on July 1. The Federal Aviation Administration clarified that airport renaming is a local matter, though updates to charts and databases are needed. The Trump Organization filed a trademark for the new name in February but confirmed no profits will be earned.

Japan deploys its first long range counterstrike missiles

The deployment of long-range "counterstrike" missiles at two bases marks a historic shift in military policy, in response to growing global challenges

TOKYO

Japan's Defence Ministry announced that the long-range missiles with "counterstrike" capabilities have been put into service for the first time.

The deployment at two army bases marks a historic and controversial shift in the nation's military policy, which has focused strictly on self-defence since World War II.

One base in southwestern Japan now holds upgraded missiles capable of traveling 1,000 kilometers, reaching far beyond Japan's borders. A second base in central Japan has been equipped with high-speed gliding projectiles designed to defend islands. While the government argues

these weapons will deter enemies, critics say they give Japan the ability to strike other countries first, potentially violating international law.

The move has sparked a wave of anger among local citizens. In Kumamoto, protesters gathered near the military gates with signs reading "No missiles needed." Many residents fear that housing such powerful weapons will turn their quiet neighborhoods into primary targets if a war breaks out. They have repeatedly asked the government for public meetings, but officials have yet to grant them.

In Tokyo, community leaders met with the Defence Ministry to demand a halt to the military expansion. They criticized Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's administration for being secretive and avoiding transparency by citing "national security." Activists argue that building up such a massive arsenal without public consent is a dangerous path. Despite the government's firm stance, civic groups say they will continue to amplify their voices through protests and parliamentary questions.

China's PLA threatens US underwater dominance

China is dramatically modernising its submarine fleet, even though developments remain cloaked in secrecy; the USA has traditionally held a comfortable lead over China in terms of underwater warfare.

HONG KONG

China is rapidly modernizing its underwater arsenal, signaling a major push to end the United States' long-standing lead in undersea warfare.

By expanding its fleet of nuclear and conventional submarines and investing in "smart" ocean technology, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is transforming into a formidable global force.

According to U.S. Navy intelligence, China's submarine fleet is expected to grow to 70 vessels by 2027 and potentially 80 by 2035. This expansion isn't just about numbers; it's about high-tech firepower. The PLAN is currently building advanced next-generation submarines, including the Type 096, designed to carry ballistic missiles with stealth capabilities that rival the world's best.

Tech leaps & strategic shifts

- **World First:** China has reportedly begun arming conventional submarines with hypersonic YJ-19 missiles, a move that significantly increases their strike range and speed.
- **Mass Production:** Massive investments in shipyard capacity now allow China to build multiple nuclear-powered submarines at the same time, a feat few nations can match.
- **Undersea Networks:** Beyond ships, China is deploying unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) and seabed sensors to create a "networked" surveillance web across the Indo-Pacific.

Despite these advances, experts say the U.S. still holds a critical "surveillance edge." Within the strategic First Island Chain, American systems are currently better at detecting Chinese movements during peacetime. However, Chinese officials are betting that their new stealth technology and unmanned systems will eventually "blind" U.S. sensors, giving the PLAN the freedom to operate undetected across the Pacific and beyond. For the first time in decades, the "silent service" of the deep is becoming a very loud part of the global power struggle.

India mourns death of Santokhi

PARAMARIBO

Suriname is in mourning following the sudden passing of its former President, Chandrikapersad Santokhi, at the age of 67. The news of his death has triggered a wave of tributes from world leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described Santokhi as a dear friend and a champion of the global Indian diaspora.

Santokhi, affectionately known as "Chan," led Suriname from 2020 to 2025. Before his presidency, he served as a police commissioner and justice minister, earning the nickname "The Sheriff" for his tough stance on crime. He famously investigated the 1982 political killings that had long haunted the nation, showing a deep commitment to justice and the rule of law. For India, Santokhi was more than just a foreign leader; he was a symbol of shared heritage. Born into an Indo-Surinamese family with roots in Bihar, he never forgot his origins.

Explosion kills 2 UN peacekeepers in Lebanon

BEIRUT

Two United Nations peacekeepers were killed and two others injured after an explosion struck their vehicle near Bani Hayyan in southern Lebanon, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) confirmed. This comes just a day after another UNIFIL personnel death in the region.

UNIFIL described the incident as tragic and called for the protection of all peacekeepers, stating, "No one should ever have to die serving the cause of peace." A third peacekeeper was severely injured, while a fourth sustained injuries. Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the explosion.

The mission also urged all parties to respect international law and ensure the safety of UN personnel. Deliberate attacks on peacekeepers, it warned, could constitute serious violations and even war crimes under UN Security

Council rules.

Moments before this, another UNIFIL peacekeeper was killed and a colleague critically injured after a projectile hit a UN position near Adchit Al Qusayr. The source of the attack remains unknown, and authorities are investigating both incidents.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it is reviewing reports of the two separate events to determine whether they were caused by Hezbollah activity or military operations in the area. The IDF emphasized that its operations target Hezbollah, not UN peacekeepers, the Lebanese army, or civilians, and cautioned against drawing immediate conclusions.

UNIFIL extended condolences to the families and colleagues of the fallen peacekeepers while expressing hope for the swift recovery of those injured. The incidents highlight the dangers faced by personnel in Lebanon's volatile south, underscoring the high human cost of ongoing regional tensions.

King Charles should meet Epstein victims: US lawmaker

WASHINGTON

A high-profile US Congressman has sent a powerful request to King Charles III ahead of his historic visit to America.

Representative Ro Khanna is urging the British monarch to sit down with survivors of the Jeffrey Epstein abuse scandal. The meeting would take place during the King's expected trip to address a joint meeting of Congress in late April.

Khanna, who is a leading voice for transparency in the Epstein files, believes this meeting is a vital step toward justice. He argues that hearing the stories of these survivors directly is the only way to hold a powerful global network accountable.

The Congressman pointed out that the scandal isn't just an American issue; Epstein's deep ties to British figures and institutions have raised serious questions about whether public trust was misused to hide wrongdoing.

The letter also highlights the frustration of US officials who have tried to get

answers from UK figures like Prince Andrew and Peter Mandelson. Both have so far avoided testifying or cooperating with congressional inquiries. Khanna believes that if King Charles meets the victims, it would send a strong message of "transparency and seriousness."

By making this request, Khanna hopes the King will use his influence to help uncover the truth. He noted that the King himself has previously called for a "full and fair" investigation. Meeting the survivors would show the world that even the most powerful institutions are willing to listen to those they failed in the past.

Tibetan parliament sets rules for national symbols

DHARAMSHALA

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile concluded a historic session, passing a significant budget and adopting formal rules to protect and standardize Tibet's national symbols.

For the first time, the 17th Parliament has established official guidelines for the use of the Tibetan national flag, emblem, and anthem to ensure they are treated with uniform respect worldwide.

During the session in Himachal Pradesh, lawmakers approved a budget of 3,475 million rupees to fund the government-in-exile's operations for the coming year. Beyond the numbers, the focus remained on cultural identity. Parliamentarians noted that while the Tibetan flag and emblem have existed for over a thousand years, they previously lacked the legislative backing now provided. These new rules aim to foster a sense of pride and consistency among the global Tibetan community.

The Parliament also took a firm stand against international pressure, passing a resolution that strongly condemned China's "ethnic unity law." Tibetan leaders described the law as "genocidal" and a direct threat to their unique heritage and identity. They reaffirmed that Tibetans, whether living at home or in exile, would not accept laws imposed from the outside that undermine their rights.

Home Minister Dolma Gyari described the session as a "significant step" for the nation. By combining financial planning with new laws to preserve their heritage, the Parliament signaled its continued resolve to protect Tibetan culture.

Israel approves death penalty for Palestinians

TEL AVIV

Israel's Parliament, the Knesset, passed a law imposing the death penalty on West Bank Palestinians convicted of terrorist attacks, in a 62-47 vote. Supported by National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, the law allows executions within 90 days and removes appeal rights.

Only Palestinians in military courts are affected, while Israeli citizens remain under civilian law. The legislation drew strong condemnation from the European Union, United Nations, and Palestinian authorities, who called it discriminatory and inhumane. Critics warn it violates.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	5		2		6			1
3		1		7				6
	2		3		5		8	
	1		4		2	3		8
7		4		8			6	
	6		5		7	1		9
	9			2			1	7
1		3	6		4	8		
2		6		9			5	3

2	3	6	9	7	5	1	8	4
4	8	5	1	6	3	7	9	2
1	7	9	4	8	2	3	6	5
9	2	8	6	4	7	5	3	1
6	1	3	2	5	8	9	4	7
5	4	7	3	9	1	8	2	6
3	9	4	5	1	6	2	7	8
7	6	1	8	2	9	4	5	3
8	5	2	7	3	4	6	1	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

COVID VIGILANCE

17 Covid cases in single week puts Hanoi on high alert

HANOI

Health officials in Vietnam's capital are calling for renewed vigilance as COVID-19 cases show a slight upward trend. Hanoi has recorded 29 infections since the start of the year, according to local reports.

While no deaths have been reported, a recent jump from three to 17 cases in a single week has put authorities on guard.

The Hanoi Centre for Disease Control is currently monitoring a variant known as

BA.3.2. While the World Health Organization (WHO) warns that this strain shows some ability to escape immune systems in lab tests, local doctors have advised the public not to panic. Additionally, scientists are keeping a close eye on a newly identified variant informally named "Cicada," which has appeared in small clusters across various regions.

Most people infected with the virus experience mild symptoms, but the elderly and those with health conditions like diabetes or heart disease remain at high risk. To stay safe, the local health department urges residents to wear masks in crowded or enclosed spaces and to disinfect their hands regularly.

The virus spreads through small liquid particles when people cough, sneeze, or even speak. Experts emphasize that being well-informed is the best defense. They recommend staying at least one meter away from others and self-isolating if you feel unwell. By following these simple steps and keeping up with vaccinations, the community can help slow the spread and protect those who are most vulnerable to serious illness.

Football stars spark global chess boom with growing obsession

Premier League icons embrace chess, driving surge in popularity among youth

LONDON

A growing fascination with chess among football's biggest names is fuelling a global surge in the game's popularity, with stars like Erling Haaland and Mohamed Salah leading the trend.

From dressing rooms to downtime at home, elite footballers are increasingly turning to chess as a mental challenge and relaxation tool. Haaland's passion has gone a step further, with the Manchester City striker investing in a new global chess tour aimed at capitalising on the game's rising cultural appeal.

Salah, meanwhile, has openly described himself as "addicted" to chess, regularly playing fast-paced online formats under anonymous profiles. England captain Harry Kane, along with Trent Alexander-Arnold and Anthony Gordon, are also among those embracing the board game.

The crossover extends beyond England, with players like Martin Odegaard and Eberechi Eze showing keen interest, the latter even winning an amateur tournament in 2025. Globally, stars such as Antoine Griezmann and Dani Carvajal are also avid players.

Chess legend Magnus Carlsen, a well-known football fan, has played a key role in bridging the two worlds. His encounters with footballers, including a quick victory over Alexander-Arnold, have added to the buzz surrounding the crossover.

The similarities between the two disciplines are increasingly recognised. Both demand strategic thinking, anticipation and quick decision-making under pressure. "You have to think several moves ahead," Haaland noted, highlighting parallels between controlling a football match and dominating a chessboard.

The boom is also being driven by digital platforms, with online chess apps making the game more accessible than ever. According to International Chess Federation, over 1.5 billion people now have a chess app on their phones, a number that surged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cultural influences, including the success of The Queen's Gambit, have further modernised chess's image, attracting younger audiences worldwide. While football remains their primary passion, many players view chess as a way to sharpen the mind and unwind. As Kane put it, the game offers a rare mental escape—one that is now re-shaping chess's global appeal.

Italy turns to youth reform to revive football fortunes ahead of World Cup

MILAN

Italian Football Federation has unveiled an ambitious youth development plan aimed at reviving Italian football, as the national team faces the real prospect of missing a third consecutive FIFA World Cup.

With the Italy national football team preparing for a crucial playoff against Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerns over declining standards have prompted urgent reforms. Once home to legends like Alessandro Del Piero, Andrea Pirlo, Fabio Cannavaro and Francesco Totti, Italy has struggled to produce world-class talent in recent years.

The sense of decline has been deepened by poor performances from Italian clubs in European competitions and the simultaneous success of the country in other sports. Tennis star Jannik Sinner, MotoGP leader Marco Bezzecchi and skier Federica Brignone have all brought global acclaim, highlighting football's relative stagnation.

To address the issue, the federation plans to introduce free online coaching courses and deploy technical staff to clubs nationwide. The pilot phase is expected to begin by October, focusing initially on teams in Serie D, Italy's fourth tier.

FIGC launches grassroots overhaul as Azzurri seek return to global stage

FIGC is focusing on grassroots transformation, targeting nearly 700,000 young players aged between five and 15. The initiative aims to standardise coaching methods, improve technical development and increase access to the sport.

Former World Cup winner Simone Perrotta, now involved in the project, stressed the importance of early coaching. "Every national team player starts at a local club. Coaches must be trained to develop talent properly," he said.

Working alongside Gianluca Zambrotta and youth development head Maurizio Viscidi, A key concern is the decline of informal street football and the rising costs of organised training, which limit access for children from lower-income backgrounds. The FIGC is collaborating with local authorities to create more public spaces for free play and increase overall participation.

Officials believe the reform must be systemic and inclusive to succeed. With time running out before another potential World Cup absence, Italy is betting on its youth to restore the nation's footballing legacy.

Fresh dispute erupts as officials, committee chief trade charges over conduct

AIFF row deepens with allegations, counter-claims over ISL entry

CHENNAI

The All India Football Federation has once again been drawn into controversy after a war of words broke out between its top officials and women's committee chairperson Valanka Alemao over alleged misconduct and governance issues.

In a letter addressed to the Executive Committee, Alemao accused AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, vice-president NA Haris and deputy secretary general M Satyanarayan of intimidation and making "disrespectful" remarks during a recent meeting in New Delhi. She alleged that her concerns regarding procedural irregularities were repeatedly dismissed and that attempts were made to suppress her voice.

"I felt deeply prejudiced," Alemao stated, claiming she was targeted throughout the meeting and subjected to unacceptable conduct.

However, the AIFF strongly rejected the allegations, describing them as an "outburst of frustration." In its response, the federation accused Alemao of exerting undue pressure to secure a place for Churchill Brothers in the Indian Super League through what it termed a "backdoor entry."

According to the AIFF, Alemao pushed for multiple emergency Executive Committee meetings to reconsider the club's inclusion. The federation said these attempts were unsuccessful due to lack of quorum or rejection by members, and added that even existing ISL clubs opposed the proposal on merit grounds.

The dispute is rooted in a larger controversy over league promotion. Churchill Brothers were initially declared winners of the I-League and set for promotion, but the decision was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport following an appeal by Inter Kashi, who were subsequently awarded the title and ISL berth.

Escalating the matter, Alemao has reportedly taken her complaint to the FIFA ethics and women's football committees, seeking an independent review.

The latest episode adds to ongoing concerns about governance and transparency within Indian football, even as stakeholders attempt to stabilise the domestic calendar and ensure the smooth conduct of competitions.

Vaishali salvages draw after tense battle with Divya

CHENNAI

R Vaishali showed remarkable resilience to escape with a draw against compatriot Divya Deshmukh in a gripping all-Indian encounter in the second round of the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament in Cyprus.

Vaishali appeared to be heading towards defeat after a costly middlegame blunder left her position vulnerable. Deshmukh, playing with the white pieces, capitalised on the error and seized a crucial pawn advantage, putting her firmly in control of the contest.

However, the tide turned dramatically in the closing stages as both players came under severe time pressure. With less than 90 seconds remaining before the time control, accuracy became difficult to maintain. Deshmukh missed a key opportunity when she opted for 37.Qg3 instead of the more precise continuation, allowing Vaishali a lifeline.

Sensing the shift, Vaishali responded with a sequence of precise and resourceful moves to stabilise her position. Her defensive play under pressure drew praise, as she managed to neutralise the advantage and steer the game towards a balanced endgame. The players eventually agreed to a draw, sharing the points after an intense battle.

The result highlighted Vaishali's fighting spirit and composure, particularly in a tournament of such high stakes where every half-point can prove decisive.

In the open section, R Praggnanandhaa followed up his opening-round victory with a solid draw against China's Wei Yi. Playing with the black pieces, Praggnanandhaa managed to create some chances but was unable to convert them into a tangible advantage, allowing his opponent to equalise.

Other matches in the round also ended in draws, underlining the closely contested nature of the tournament. With top players evenly matched, early rounds have seen cautious yet competitive play.

As the Candidates tournament progresses, both Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa will look to build momentum and stay in contention for a shot at the world title, with consistency and nerve likely to play a crucial role in determining the eventual challengers.

33 sexual harassment complaints reported against SAI staff, coaches

CHENNAI

The Sports Authority of India has recorded 33 complaints of sexual harassment against its staff and coaches over the past decade, the government informed Parliament, highlighting concerns over athlete safety and institutional accountability.

Responding to questions in the Lok Sabha, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that eight complaints were filed against administrative staff, while 25 cases involved coaches during the last ten years. The data was shared following queries raised by Members of Parliament seeking details on complaints across sports institutions.

According to the ministry, disciplinary action varied across cases. Among administrative staff, one individual faced a major penalty involving permanent withholding of full gratuity under pension rules, while the remaining cases were closed without punitive action. No complaints were reported against officials directly under the sports ministry.

In contrast, action against coaches was more stringent. Two coaches were terminated, while six faced suspension. Additionally, six minor penalties were imposed. The ministry also noted that appeals were filed in eight cases involving coaches, either by complainants or the accused, indicating ongoing disputes over inquiry outcomes.

The issue of harassment in sports institutions has gained attention in recent years, with athletes increasingly coming forward to report misconduct. The government reiterated that safeguards are in place under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013, which mandates all recognised National Sports Federations to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) to address such grievances.

The ministry stated that all federations under its purview have complied with the requirement of setting up ICCs to ensure timely redressal of complaints and adherence to workplace safety norms.

Meanwhile, in a separate reply, the government said that a proposed scheme to promote sports goods manufacturing in India is yet to be finalised. The initiative aims to strengthen domestic production, foster innovation and enhance global competitiveness, but will be implemented only after consultations with stakeholders.

The disclosures underline the need for stronger monitoring mechanisms and preventive measures to ensure a safe environment for athletes and support staff across the country's sporting ecosystem.

Las Vegas to host Super Bowl again in 2029

LAS VEGAS

Super Bowl LXIII will return to Las Vegas, with National Football League owners unanimously voting to award the 2029 showpiece to the city's Allegiant Stadium.

The decision marks the second time Las Vegas will host the Super Bowl, following the success of Super Bowl LVIII, which showcased the city's ability to stage one of the world's biggest sporting spectacles. The NFL had long been cautious about bringing its marquee event to a gambling hub, but that stance has softened in recent years. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell welcomed the move, citing the city's vibrant atmosphere and proven track record. He said Las Vegas delivered an "incredible experience" during its first Super Bowl and expressed confidence that the 2029 edition would raise the bar even further.

The return underscores Las Vegas's growing status as a global sports destination. Since the relocation of the Las Vegas Raiders in 2020, the city has rapidly expanded its sporting footprint, hosting major events such as the NFL Draft and high-profile boxing and entertainment spectacles.

Allegiant Stadium, located near the iconic Las Vegas Strip, has been central to this transformation. Its accessibility and proximity to hotels and entertainment venues make it an ideal host for large-scale events, with most Super Bowl week activities held within a compact area. Looking ahead, the 2029 Super Bowl will be part of a packed sporting calendar for the city. The College Football Playoff National Championship is scheduled there in 2027, followed by the NCAA Final Four in 2028. Additionally, a new Major League Baseball team is expected to begin play in Las Vegas around the same time, while discussions continue over a potential NBA expansion franchise.

Calls grow to include Sooryavanshi in India's England tour squad

MUMBAI

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India to include teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in India's upcoming white-ball tour of England following his explosive start in the Indian Premier League 2026.

The 15-year-old prodigy made headlines with a stunning knock for Rajasthan Royals, smashing 52 off just 17 balls to guide his side to an emphatic eight-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings. Chasing a modest 128, Rajasthan cruised to victory in just 12.1 overs, with Sooryavanshi's fearless batting taking centre stage.

Impressed by the youngster's composure and stroke-play, Vaughan suggested that India should expose him early to the international environment. While acknowledging that immediate selection in the playing XI may not be necessary, he emphasised the value of integrating him into the senior setup.

"Get him on that tour, let him experience the environment," Vaughan said, adding that exposure to the national team setup could accelerate the youngster's development. He also questioned eligibility norms for a player of his age but maintained that Sooryavanshi has the talent to compete at the highest level.

The innings has further strengthened the growing buzz around the Bihar-born batter, who has rapidly emerged as one of the most exciting young prospects in Indian cricket. His ability to dominate bowlers with aggressive strokeplay at such a young age has drawn widespread attention.

Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif also revised his earlier stance on the youngster. Having previously cautioned against premature hype, Kaif now believes Sooryavanshi is ready for the next step. He praised the teenager's match-winning ability and entertainment value, noting his maturity despite limited experience.

QUICK READ

South Korea allocates funds to tackle Mideast crisis

Seoul

South Korea has set aside $609 million in an extra budget to respond to the Middle East crisis affecting energy and supply chains. The plan, approved by the Cabinet led by President Lee Jae Myung, includes support for oil supplies, petrochemical firms, and small businesses facing export issues. Funds will also address fuel price concerns and boost rare earth production. Additionally, investment will be made to promote artificial intelligence in industries like steel and automobiles. The broader budget aims to support the economy and provide relief to low-income groups, pending approval from the National Assembly later this week.

India to get four chip plants by 2026: Vaishnaw

Sanand

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said four semiconductor plants will be ready in India by 2026, marking rapid progress in the sector. Speaking after a new facility inauguration in Gujarat, he added two more plants are expected in 2027, while the first fabrication unit will be ready by 2028. The government aims to strengthen design and manufacturing capabilities with support from global firms. Around 60,000 engineers have been trained for chip design work. Officials said the plan will boost India's position globally, with a goal to become a top semiconductor hub in the coming years.

India signs deal for indigenous mountain radars

New Delhi

The Ministry of Defence has signed a Rs 1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited to supply two advanced mountain radars for the Indian Air Force. The deal supports the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, focusing on local design and production. Developed by a DRDO laboratory, the radar systems will improve surveillance in difficult mountainous areas. Officials said the move will strengthen air defence and reduce dependence on foreign equipment. The project is also expected to boost the domestic defence industry and promote technological growth within the country's expanding security and manufacturing ecosystem.

Grab raises fuel surcharge amid price volatility

Singapore

Ride-hailing company Grab will increase its fuel surcharge to SGD 0.90 per trip from April 7 to May 31, citing rising global fuel prices. The move comes as oil costs remain unstable due to ongoing geopolitical tensions, impacting transport services across the region. The surcharge is meant to help drivers cope with higher operating expenses. Earlier, the company had also introduced incentives and fuel support measures for drivers. Industry observers say such steps are becoming common as transport firms adjust to fluctuating energy prices, which continue to affect fares and overall commuting costs in Singapore.

India's data hunger hits new record highs

India's mobile data consumption hit 31 GB monthly, driven by 5G expansion and a surge in high-quality video streaming.

NEW DELHI

India is officially more connected than ever. A new report released on Monday shows that the average person in India now uses over 31 GB of mobile data every single month.

This massive jump in internet use is being driven by a love for high-quality videos, online gaming, and the rapid spread of 5G technology across the nation.

Over the last five years, data usage has grown steadily. Experts from Nokia, who published the findings, noted that 5G is no longer just for people in big cities. While metros still lead the way, families in smaller towns are quickly catching up. In fact, nearly half of all mobile traffic in the country now travels through 5G networks, which offer much faster speeds than the older 4G systems.

It isn't just about faster speeds; it is about what people are doing online. From streaming movies in crystal-clear 4K to using new AI tools, Indians are finding more reasons to stay logged in. The report also highlighted that most new phones bought today are 5G-ready, making it easier for everyone to join the digital wave. Looking toward the future, the trend shows no signs of slowing down. With more people using smart apps and immersive digital tools, the demand for data will only rise. Predictions suggest that India could have over one billion 5G users by the year 2031. For now, India remains one of the world's biggest and fastest-growing digital hubs.

FACT-FILE

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- The trend shows no signs of slowing down
- India could have over one billion 5G users by the year 2031

Middle East tensions push Won to record low

SEOUL

South Korea's currency, the won, plummeted to a 17-year low yesterday as fears of a widening war in the Middle East rattled global markets. The currency dropped sharply to 1,530.1 won against the US dollar, marking its weakest level since the global financial crisis of 2009.

The economic slide is being fueled by a dangerous mix of rising oil prices and geopolitical "sabre-rattling." Recent threats by U.S. President Donald Trump to target Iranian oil hubs have sent crude prices soaring above $100 a barrel. Because South Korea imports nearly all of its energy, these high prices force the country to spend more US dollars, putting immense pressure on the local currency.

Adding to the drama, Iran has suggested it might charge a "toll" for ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for world oil. This uncertainty has scared international investors, who are pulling their money out of the Korean stock market at a record pace. Yesterday alone, foreign investors sold off over 3.8 trillion won worth of shares, causing the KOSPI stock index to dive more than 4 percent.

South Korea's central bank is now on high alert. Officials stated they are monitoring the situation closely and are prepared to step in if the won't slide becomes too "one-sided." For now, the combination of expensive fuel and fleeing investors has left the nation's economy facing its toughest challenge in nearly two decades.

Google unveils 2026 AI startup accelerator India

NEW DELHI

Tech giant Google opened doors for its 2026 "Startups Accelerator" in India. This three-month program is designed specifically to help homegrown artificial intelligence companies grow. The best part for young businesses? Google provides this high-level support without taking any ownership or "equity" in the startups.

The 2026 program is looking for teams working on the next big things in AI, such as "Physical AI" and specialized models built specifically for India's unique challenges. Whether a startup is just starting with "Seed" funding or growing into "Series A," they can apply until April 19. Those selected will get to work directly with Google's most advanced tools, including Gemini and specialized chips designed for heavy data processing.

Participants won't just get tools; they will get teachers. Experts from Google DeepMind, Cloud, and Android will provide one-on-one mentorship. The goal is to move beyond simple tech experiments and create real-world tools that change how industries work.

Previous success stories prove the program works. One past participant, Dview, saw its revenue jump four times, while another, AiSteth, created a smart stethoscope that has already screened 75,000 patients. From healthcare to climate change, these startups are solving big problems.

The journey begins this June with a week-long bootcamp in Bengaluru, the heart of India's tech scene. It will wrap up in October with a "Demo Day," where founders show off their progress to the world. It is a golden opportunity for India's brightest minds to scale up.

AI data skills drive India's future jobs

NEW DELHI: A new report highlights that artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data skills will be the most important abilities in India over the next three to five years.

The study by NIIT Limited and YouGov shows strong demand across students, employees, and employers.

Recruiters say mid-career professionals face the biggest shortage, even as many companies try to hire them. Early-career workers feel more confident than students in key tech areas, while senior leaders report the highest confidence overall.

About 86 percent of employers believe they can find skilled talent, thanks to training programs and partnerships with colleges. Many companies have also increased learning budgets and offer internships.

The report adds that flexible work expectations differ, with more students preferring hybrid roles than companies currently provide.

Golden touch powers India's credit boom

NEW DELHI

Families across India are increasingly turning to their jewelry boxes to fund their dreams. A new report released reveals that gold loans have officially become the star of the country's lending market.

These loans now make up a staggering 36 percent of all retail borrowing by volume and nearly 40 percent by total value.

As gold prices climb, more people are "unlocking" the hidden wealth in their lockers. The average loan amount has jumped significantly over the last two years, reaching around Rs 1.9 lakh by late 2025. This shift shows that gold is no longer just a family heirloom; it is a powerful financial tool used by everyone from farmers to city professionals.

While gold loans were once most popular in Southern India, the trend is moving north and west. States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are seeing a massive spike in demand. Interestingly, these loans are no longer seen as a last resort. More "prime" customers—those with high credit scores—are choosing gold loans because they are secure and easy to manage.

The report also highlights that credit health in India is improving, even as borrowing rises in rural and semi-urban areas. These regions now account for over half of all borrowers. Whether it is for a new business or a personal milestone, India's trust in gold remains the backbone of the economy. As long as gold values stay high, this golden era of credit looks set to continue.

India's gold loan market is booming, now representing 36% of retail credit volume as rising prices help families unlock wealth for mainstream financial needs.

India's rural housing scheme has completed 2.99 crore homes, utilizing AI and face-scanning technology to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Millions of rural families gain new homes

NEW DELHI

The dream of owning a sturdy house has become a reality for nearly three crore rural families across India.

The government recently announced that out of the 4.15 crore homes planned under the rural housing scheme, 2.99 crore are already finished. This massive effort is part of a mission to build nearly five crore homes by 2029.

To make sure the money reaches the right people, the government has sent over ₹4 lakh crore directly into the bank accounts of those building their homes. This "beneficiary-led" approach means families take charge of their own construction, ensuring they have a personal stake in their new lives.

What makes this project special is the use of high-tech tools to stop fraud. For the first time, artificial intelligence (AI) and face-scanning technology are being used to verify that every house is real. The system looks at digital photos of walls, roofs, and windows to confirm completion before final payments are made. Advanced security features even check for "eye-blinks" to prove that the person being verified is actually there in person.

Beyond just four walls, these homes are being connected to clean water, electricity, and solar power through other government programs. This teamwork between different departments ensures that a new house isn't just a building, but a complete home with modern facilities. By combining human effort with smart technology, the country is steadily closing the housing gap for its rural citizens.

IMF grants Pakistan tiny relief on fuel

NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has offered Pakistan a small amount of breathing room regarding fuel prices, but experts warn the situation is a dangerous "stress test." According to a new report, the IMF is allowing the Pakistani government to briefly shield its citizens from rising oil costs, though this move is being called economically unsustainable in the long run.

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has sent global energy prices soaring, creating a massive headache for Pakistan's fragile economy. Usually, the IMF demands strict price hikes to save money. However, in a rare show of flexibility, the international lender is temporarily tolerating local fuel subsidies. This "pragmatic" shift aims to prevent immediate social unrest, but it comes with a major catch: Pakistan must still meet its overall savings targets and keep its budget under control.

The timing is incredibly difficult. Just as Pakistan was starting to get inflation under control and stabilize its currency, this new energy crisis threatened to ruin that progress. The IMF has warned that these "distortions" in energy prices must eventually be fixed. They are pushing for structural reforms to ensure the country doesn't rely on expensive, untargeted subsidies forever.

For Pakistan, the situation is a delicate balancing act. The government must protect its people from poverty while satisfying international lenders to keep the economy afloat. As tensions rise near the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for oil, the risk of high inflation remains a dark cloud over the nation's future.

PAKISTAN POVERTY LEVELS FAR HIGHER THAN REPORTED

NEW DELHI: A new report by the Social Policy and Development Centre reveals that poverty in Pakistan has reached 43.5 percent, much higher than official estimates of 28.9 percent by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The study shows urban areas are hit harder, with poverty rising faster in cities than villages. Experts say the gap of 14.6 percent is due to different calculation methods. Government data uses price trends that may not reflect real costs for poor families.

In contrast, the SPDC measures food needs and daily calorie intake, giving a clearer picture of basic living costs. The report estimates millions have fallen into poverty in recent years.

Researchers warn that living conditions are worsening across the country and stress the need for more accurate data to guide policies and support struggling communities effectively.

India launches major push for AI skills

NEW DELHI

India is taking a massive leap toward a high-tech future by launching new programs to boost Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital content. The government's latest plan focuses on training a workforce that is ready for the "AI era" while making it easier for every citizen to access modern digital services.

A key part of this mission is a national training program that will teach 15,000 creators and media professionals how to use advanced AI tools. In partnership with Google and YouTube, the initiative will cover "generative AI" and "prompting," giving people the skills needed to stay competitive in a changing world. To give these creators a home, a new platform called MyWAVES has been launched, allowing users to share videos and content in many different languages.

The government is also making TV simpler and cheaper. New television sets will now come with built-in satellite tools, meaning families—especially in remote villages—no longer need to buy separate set-top boxes to watch their favorite shows.

THAR COAL GAP

Broken promises leave Thar coal region poor

KARACHI

In 2019, top leaders in Sindh promised that every rupee earned from the massive Thar Coal project would go back into developing the Tharparkar district.

Fast forward to 2026, and those bold words have yet to turn into reality for the local people. A new report reveals a heartbreaking gap between the project's massive profits and the area's deep poverty.

Between 2023 and 2025, the provincial government collected an estimated 50 billion Pakistani rupees in royalties from coal extraction. Despite this huge windfall, the actual money spent on the district is just a tiny fraction of what was earned. While officials point to new roads and schools, the facts on the ground tell a different story. Tharparkar remains one of the poorest places in Pakistan, with nearly 77 percent of its people living in poverty.

The problem isn't just a lack of money; it is a lack of a plan. Currently, there is no legal system or law that forces the government to move these coal profits into local development funds. Without a strict rule in place, the billions earned from the land stay in provincial accounts rather than helping the thirsty, marginalized communities living right above the coal mines.

For the residents of Tharparkar, the "black gold" beneath their feet has brought more dust than prosperity. Until the government creates a transparent, legally binding way to share the wealth, the promise of a better life remains nothing more than empty talk.

Ganguly backs BCCI, calls for wider distribution of Test venues

Former captain supports sharing Test matches beyond traditional cricket centres nationwide

KOLKATA

Sourav Ganguly has backed the Board of Control for Cricket in India for distributing Test matches across multiple venues, saying the traditional format should not remain confined to a few historic centres.

The former India captain's remarks come after the BCCI omitted iconic venues like Eden Gardens and Wankhede Stadium from the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia, opting instead for cities such as Nagpur, Chennai, Guwahati, Ranchi and Ahmedabad.

Speaking in Kolkata, Ganguly said while he would always welcome more Tests at Eden Gardens, he understands the need to expand the game's reach. "It's always special to host big matches here, but the venue has already had its share of fixtures. The game must travel to other centres as well," he said.

He pointed out that several emerging venues now boast excellent infrastructure and are capable of hosting high-quality Test cricket. "It is encouraging to see matches being played in places like Guwahati and Ranchi. Stadiums across India have improved significantly," he added.

India's 2026–27 home season will be a busy one, featuring series against West Indies, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Australia. While Kolkata and Mumbai will host limited-overs matches, newer venues continue to gain prominence in the Test calendar.

However, the move has sparked debate within the cricketing community. Former India spinner Venkatapathy Raju expressed nostalgia for the traditional rotation of five Test centres—Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Kanpur and Mumbai—arguing that these venues carry a unique legacy and atmosphere.

At the same event, Ganguly also revealed plans for a reunion of the iconic 2001 Test team at Eden Gardens. Reflecting on his career, he rated memorable Test victories in Kolkata, Chennai, Headingley and Adelaide above the famous 2002 NatWest Trophy win, reiterating that Test cricket remains the pinnacle of the sport.

CA clarifies Green's bowling absence after Rahane remark sparks debate

MUMBAI

Cricket Australia has clarified that Cameron Green is currently unable to bowl due to a managed back injury, following comments by Ajinkya Rahane that stirred speculation during the ongoing Indian Premier League 2026.

The clarification came after Rahane, leading Kolkata Knight Riders, deflected queries about Green's absence with the ball in their opening match against Mumbai Indians, saying, "Ask Cricket Australia." His remark triggered questions over the Australian all-rounder's fitness and availability.

In response, Cricket Australia stated that Green is dealing with a lower back issue that is being carefully managed. "He is currently rebuilding his bowling workload in India and is expected to return to bowling in around 10 to 12 days," a CA spokesperson said, adding that KKR management has been fully informed of the situation.

Green's bowling workload has been limited since undergoing surgery for a stress fracture, which kept him away from competitive bowling for nearly a year between September 2024 and October 2025. Even after returning, his contributions with the ball have remained minimal, with his last competitive outing coming earlier this year in a T20 World Cup match where he bowled just two overs.

KKR had invested heavily in Green, signing him for ₹25.20 crore at the auction, making him their marquee overseas acquisition.

However, his inability to bowl has affected the team's balance, particularly in their opening game at Wankhede Stadium, where they struggled to defend a total of 220.

Rahane acknowledged the challenge, admitting that the side is still searching for the right combination. He expressed hope that Green's return to bowling would provide more flexibility to the lineup.

Despite the setback, Rahane backed his relatively inexperienced bowling attack to improve, calling the match a "learning curve" as KKR look to regroup in the tournament.

Five penalty runs awarded as controversy erupts during tense PSL clash

Lahore Qalandars face penalty as Fakhar Zaman charged with ball-tampering

LAHORE

Controversy erupted in the Pakistan Super League after Fakhar Zaman of Lahore Qalandars was charged with ball-tampering during a crucial match against Karachi Kings at Gaddafi Stadium.

The incident occurred in the closing stages of the match when Karachi Kings required 14 runs off the final over. Umpires ruled that the condition of the ball had been unlawfully altered, resulting in five penalty runs being awarded to Karachi. The decision significantly shifted momentum, reducing the target and allowing the Kings to chase down the remaining runs with ease.

According to a PSL statement, Fakhar was found to have breached Article 41.3 of the playing conditions, which prohibits any action that changes the condition of the ball. The ball was subsequently replaced at the request of Karachi Kings before the final runs were completed.

However, Fakhar has denied the allegation. During a disciplinary hearing conducted by match referee Roshan Mahanama, the Pakistan international contested the charge, maintaining his innocence. The league confirmed that a follow-up hearing will take place within 48 hours, after which a final decision will be announced.

If found guilty, Fakhar could face sanctions ranging from fines to suspension, including the possibility of missing at least one PSL match. The franchise itself could also face penalties depending on the outcome of the investigation. Lahore Qalandars captain Shaheen Afridi said the team would review footage of the incident before drawing conclusions. "We will check the cameras and discuss it internally," he said after the match.

The episode has once again brought the spotlight on ball-tampering controversies in cricket, raising concerns over fair play and adherence to rules in high-pressure situations. With the league awaiting the referee's verdict, the incident has added an unexpected layer of drama to the ongoing PSL season.

Sinner downs Lehecka in Miami to seal historic 'Sunshine Double'

MIAMI

Jannik Sinner produced a dominant display to defeat Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-4 in a rain-disrupted final at the Miami Open, clinching the coveted 'Sunshine Double' without dropping a single set.

The Italian world number two showcased remarkable consistency and composure, winning an impressive 92 per cent of his first-serve points while saving all three break points he faced. The victory also extended his unbeaten run in ATP Masters 1000 matches without losing a set to 17.

The final at Hard Rock Stadium was repeatedly interrupted by rain, with play delayed for nearly 90 minutes on two occasions. Despite the disruptions, Sinner maintained his rhythm, even keeping himself engaged during breaks by casually juggling a football with his team.

Sinner made an early statement by breaking Lehecka for a 3-1 lead in the opening set and then relying on his powerful serve to close it out comfortably. The second set proved more competitive, with Lehecka, ranked 22nd in the world and playing his first Masters 1000 final, showing resilience by saving multiple break points and briefly taking a 4-3 lead.

However, Sinner's relentless pressure eventually paid off. He converted his sixth break-point opportunity of the set to edge ahead 5-4 before sealing the match with a composed forehand volley on championship point.

"This is something I never imagined," Sinner said after the match. "It's incredibly difficult to achieve, and I'm just really happy with the work we've put in."

With the win, Sinner becomes the first player since Roger Federer in 2017 to win back-to-back titles at Indian Wells and Miami, a feat famously known as the 'Sunshine Double'. He now joins an elite group that includes Novak Djokovic, Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras.

The triumph further cements Sinner's status as one of the sport's brightest stars and a leading force on the ATP Tour.

JSW Sports signs U19 World Cup-winning captain Niki Prasad

MUMBAI

JSW Sports has announced the signing of Niki Prasad, the captain of India's triumphant squad at the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2025, marking a major step in the young cricketer's rapidly rising career. At just 20, Niki has emerged as one of the brightest prospects in Indian women's cricket, earning recognition for her leadership, composure and consistent performances. Her journey has been remarkable, beginning with her U16 debut at the age of nine and progressing swiftly to represent Karnataka's U19 side within two years. Turning professional at 13, she has continued to impress across domestic and international platforms. Niki's leadership credentials came to the fore when she guided India to victory in the U19 Asia Cup, followed by a historic World Cup triumph in Malaysia. Her calm demeanour and ability to inspire teammates have drawn praise from experts and administrators alike.

She is also a part of Delhi Capitals in the Women's Premier League, where she has gained valuable exposure at the top level. Over two seasons, she has featured in multiple matches, contributing with steady performances and building her reputation as a dependable player. Welcoming her to the fold, JSW Sports said Niki represents a new generation of cricketers who combine talent with maturity beyond their years. The organisation highlighted her journey from grassroots cricket to leading the national side as a testament to her dedication and potential.

Expressing her excitement, Niki said she was honoured to join an organisation known for nurturing athletes across disciplines. She added that the support system and belief shown in young talent would help her take the next step in her career.

Under JSW Sports, Niki will gain access to world-class training facilities, professional management and holistic career guidance aimed at enhancing both on-field performance and personal development.

The company already manages several prominent cricketers, including Jemimah Rodrigues and Shafali Verma, further strengthening its reputation as a key stakeholder in shaping the future of Indian cricket.

Naseem Shah fined heavily for post targeting Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE

Naseem Shah has been handed a record fine by the Pakistan Cricket Board for a controversial social media post targeting Maryam Nawaz during the ongoing Pakistan Super League. The fast bowler was fined $71,684, reportedly the largest financial penalty in Pakistan's cricket history, with local media suggesting it amounts to nearly eight months of his central contract salary. The disciplinary action followed a now-deleted post that appeared to criticise the special treatment accorded to Maryam Nawaz during her visit to Gaddafi Stadium for the PSL opener. In the post, Naseem had sarcastically questioned why the Punjab Chief Minister was being treated "like the Queen at Lord's," sparking immediate backlash. The remark came at a sensitive time when fans were barred from attending matches in Lahore and Karachi due to fuel conservation measures linked to escalating tensions in West Asia.

The PCB issued a show-cause notice to the pacer on March 27, shortly after the post surfaced. During subsequent disciplinary proceedings, Naseem offered an unconditional apology, which was taken into consideration before the penalty was imposed. In its statement, the board also revealed that Naseem had terminated his social media adviser, who has now been blacklisted from working with any player under PCB's jurisdiction. The move was seen as an attempt by the player to take corrective action and prevent further controversy.

Despite the apology, the PCB opted for a stringent penalty, underlining its zero-tolerance approach towards conduct that could bring the game or its stakeholders into disrepute. The incident has once again highlighted the growing scrutiny over athletes' social media activity and the potential consequences of public remarks involving political figures. Naseem, one of Pakistan's leading fast bowlers, now finds himself under intense spotlight as the PSL progresses, with the episode serving as a cautionary tale for players navigating the intersection of sport, politics and digital expression.

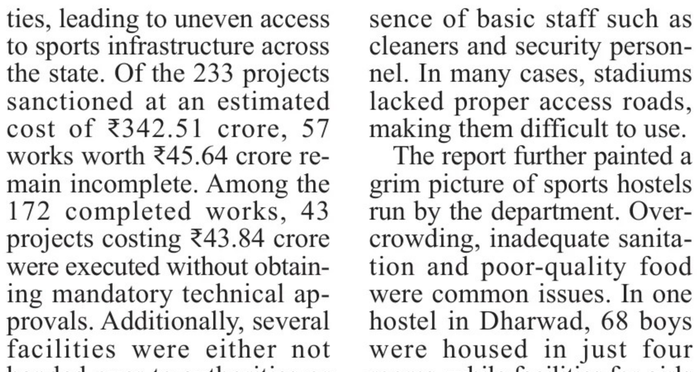
CAG flags poor planning, regional imbalance in Karnataka sports infrastructure

BENGALURU

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has exposed serious lapses in the development and maintenance of sports infrastructure across Karnataka, highlighting regional disparities, incomplete projects and poor living conditions for athletes.

The audit, covering 2019–2024, found that infrastructure development has been heavily skewed, with most districts receiving minimal funding. Out of 31 districts, 29 accounted for just 0–6 per cent of total expenditure, while districts such as Bidar, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Ramanagara and Vijayanagara received no funds at all. In contrast, Bengaluru Urban and Mandya alone accounted for a disproportionate share of spending.

The report criticised the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports for failing to ensure balanced growth and proper planning. It noted that authorities did not adequately identify or prioritise regions lacking basic facilities, leading to uneven access to sports infrastructure across the state. Of the 233 projects sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹342.51 crore, 57 works worth ₹45.64 crore remain incomplete. Among the 172 completed works, 43 projects costing ₹43.84 crore were executed without obtaining mandatory technical approvals. Additionally, several facilities were either not handed over to authorities or not taken up at all.



The CAG also flagged poor maintenance and under-utilisation of existing facilities. Inspections across eight districts and 29 taluks revealed unhygienic conditions, waterlogging, lack of drainage, garbage accumulation and absence of basic staff such as cleaners and security personnel. In many cases, stadiums lacked proper access roads, making them difficult to use.

The report further painted a grim picture of sports hostels run by the department. Overcrowding, inadequate sanitation and poor-quality food were common issues. In one hostel in Dharwad, 68 boys were housed in just four rooms, while facilities for girls were also found to be insufficient and poorly maintained. The audit also highlighted the lack of gender-specific infrastructure, noting that despite recommendations, no adequate measures were taken to improve safety and participation for female athletes.

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